

DUDLEY CHRONICLE



Thursday, November 27, 2014

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X-MAS STAR

Wagner meets his fans at big switch-on



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FRESH ROLE

Actor shoots historic drama at museum



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Decision to select leader is imminent

THE proposed new leader of Dudley Council will be announced at a meeting tonight (Thursday).

The borough's controlling Labour group is meeting to discuss a successor for Councillor David Sparks.

Whoever takes on the job of Labour group leader will also be put forward as the next leader of the local authority.

Councillor Sparks announced his intention to step down from his role leading the party and the authority last week.

Focus

The controlling group plan to select a new leader after Councillor Sparks formally stands aside at the meeting.

Nominations have already been coming in ahead of the meeting taking place on Thursday evening.

Councillor Sparks was planning to relinquish his position as council leader at a meeting at Dudley Council House on Monday.

The Labour party, which have a majority in the council chamber, will then nominate its leader to head up the authority.

Councillor Sparks is giving up the role to focus his time as chairman of national body the Local Government Association.

Lenny lends voice to zoo

DUDLEY'S Lenny Henry has recorded a 'voice over' for a film to be screened at a £250,000 new attraction at Dudley Zoo.

A documentary is being created looking at the history of the zoo and looks at the design of its unique Tecton enclosures.

It will be showcased when the zoo's new Tecton Interpretation Centre opens in the spring, featuring the dulcet Dudley tones of the popular actor and comedian who was made a Freeman of the borough last year.

DINNER MONEY BID BY SCHOOLS

TWO schools struggling to provide school meals without disrupting lessons are bidding for £450,000 to bring their kitchen and dining facilities up to scratch.

Netherton C of E Primary School and Lutley Primary School in Halesowen and are both looking to secure cash for the work.

Education bosses said both schools are having to run 'excessively long' lunch hours.

Netherton CE Primary is applying for £220,000 to install a new kitchen. Bosses say it will end the need for all meals to be brought into school through a teaching area.

Lessons

A new dining hall will be created at Lutley Primary, which will free up the main hall, currently being used at lunch time, for PE lessons. The school is applying for a grant of £230,000 from the Department for Education.

Dudley's children's services boss Councillor Tim Crumpton said: "We have two schools who are unable to deliver the free school meal initiative without significant disruption to the school day."

"The bid will be submitted to request total capital funding of £450,000.

"£230,000 of the capital funding will be used to provide a new dining hall at Lutley Primary School to enable delivery of hot meals and reduce disruption to the school curriculum.

"The bid will also be submitted to request £220,000 capital funding to install a new kitchen at Netherton C of E Primary school to ensure that hot meals can be provided on site reducing disruption to the school curriculum and resolving health and safety issues," he added.

By Heather Large

ing disruption to the school curriculum and resolving health and safety issues," he added.

Since September all infant children have been entitled to free meals. Almost 60 jobs have been created across the borough as part of the scheme.

Dudley Council received £855,000 from the Government to enable it to carry out work needed ahead of the scheme being launched in the borough.

In total 59 catering staff were recruited to provide more than 13,200 meals per day. The council said an additional 191 hours needed to be covered to provide free meals.

The Government provided £1 billion to meet the costs of providing the meals across the UK, which are available to all pupils without means-testing, over the next two years.

A total of £150 million was made available to improve school kitchens and dining facilities with an additional £22.5 million specifically to help smaller schools.

It is also hoped the availability of healthy free meals will help reduce the obesity problem with about 20 per cent of children currently classed as obese by the time they leave primary school.

Strictly dance delight for youngsters



Kimberley Robinson with fellow dancers Alex Haughtey, aged 4, and Rhaya Haughtey, aged 6

TAP, ballet, disco and everything between — young dancers have been showcasing their talents at their annual show in Sedgley.

Performers from the Denise Robinson School of Dance have been working towards the performances for the past 10 months.

They first took to the stage this week on Sunday and Monday in front of an audience of proud relations and friends.

Dance school owner Denise Robinson said that the show was called Dance Like Nobody Is Watching and featured several different styles of dance. It was being performed by the dance school's 65 pupils, some aged as young as three and some grown up.

Frozen

Performed over two evenings at the Dormston Theatre in Sedgley, Mrs Robinson said the show featured 'a bit of everything', including Snow White and Peter Pan, some burlesque from the seniors and a routine based on children's new Disney favourite Frozen.

"We have got snowmen coming out our ears," said Denise, who added: "Sometimes for the youngsters it is hard work but they enjoy it and it gives them confidence. That's what it is all about."

The dancers attend classes twice a week and have been preparing for their big show since the start of this year.

Calls from family lead to review of killing

A FRESH inquiry will be held in the wake of the killing of Halesowen schoolgirl Christina Edkins.

NHS England confirmed a far-reaching review will take place following calls from the family of the 16-year-old, who was stabbed to death by paranoid schizophrenic Phillip Simelane on a bus in Birmingham while on her way to school.

An initial inquiry by Birmingham Cross City Clinical Commissioning Group said Christina's death could have been prevented after it emerged Simelane had been released from prison with no supervision only months before the attack.

The family called for the full facts and those responsible for failings to be identified.

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris said a national inquiry would add 'more teeth' to demands for improvement.

NHS England say a fresh inquiry would be held after the Leasowes High School pupil's family wrote to them.

A spokesman said: "NHS England can confirm that a letter has been received and subsequently a decision has been made for a further review."

Simelane was detained indefinitely in a psychiatric hospital.

1,000 sign MP's petition

MORE than 1,000 people have put their name to a petition opposing plans to close Dudley Police Station to the public.

Under the proposal put forward by West Midlands Police, the front counter at the station in New Street will be shut.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin started a petition, both paper and online, urging police bosses to rethink the proposal.

■ Counter cuts — see page 5



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MP's 'outrage' over fewer court cases

THE total number of cases heard by magistrates' courts in the Black Country and Staffordshire has fallen by more than 26 per cent in four years, figures reveal.

Courts dealt with 70,537 cases in 2013/14 compared with 95,439 in 2010/11.

National figures show that courts across England and Wales heard 2.8 million cases last year, nearly a million less than in 2010. The figures were uncovered by Dudley North MP Ian Austin.

He said he is concerned by the statistics. Last year the Labour MP led a successful campaign to save Dudley Magistrates' Court from closure.

"We already know that a million crimes are not being recorded, the number of police is down by 13,000

and now these figures show that the number of cases taken to court is down by a quarter," he said.

"When I was fighting to save Dudley's local court from closure, magistrates told me police are dealing with serious cases, including domestic violence and rape, out of court. I think people will be outraged."

"Like me they want more police on the streets, more offenders going

to court and more criminals being put in jail."

The figures show the number of cases heard at Dudley during four years dropped from 15,552 to 10,502 — a reduction of around 32 per cent.

In 2010/11 a total of 98 courts shut down across the country, including Halesowen and West Bromwich Magistrates courts and Stourbridge county court.

Legal bid to tackle boy racers in court

A BID to secure a High Court injunction to tackle boy racers across the Black Country is due back before the courts next month.

West Midlands Police and Dudley, Wolverhampton, Walsall and Sandwell councils are seeking the High Court injunction.

The Black Country Route in Bilston and Moxley, Birmingham New Road on the border of Wolverhampton and Dudley, and Maybrook Industrial Estate in Brownhills have all been hotspots for the car cruisers.

Prison

The order would involve anyone suspected of breaching the ban being held in contempt of court, which can result in a sentence of up to two years in prison.

Police would also have their powers to convict motorists of offences such as driving without insurance, driving an unroadworthy vehicle or driving without due care and attention.

Police said the High Court injunction application will be heard again in court in December.

The process had started in the courts in September.

Officers said they would continue with patrols in those areas.

Unique card opportunity

FAMILIES have an opportunity to make their own unique Christmas card at a Christmas fair to be held at Overend Methodist Mission in Banner's Lane, Cradley on Saturday.

A photographer will be on hand with traditional nativity costumes and backgrounds to make quality individual cards at a cost of £3.

The fair will run from 11am until 2pm and entry is free.

Seasonal lunches, including hot turkey baps, will be available, and there will be stalls.

Speeders clocked

MORE than one in five drivers were caught speeding during a police operation in Halesowen.

Officers carried out the speed check for more than an hour in Hawne Lane in Belle Vale. Out of 58 vehicles 13 were found to be breaking the 30mph limit.

Phase one for homes scheme on college site

THERE are plans to build more than 40 homes on the site of a former college campus, now the teaching department is moving to a new £12 million training centre.

An application has been lodged for 43 affordable homes at Dudley College's Mons Hill campus, off Wrens Hill Road, in Dudley. But it has been opposed by Sedgley Civic Society.

It is phase one of a proposed housing development which will eventually see around 80 homes at the site.

Teaching will be moved to a construction training centre called CABTech, which in Priory Road.

The college has received £9m from the Local Enterprise Partnership towards the training centre project with work to begin in September next year, with the centre due to open in 2017.

Apartments proposed on High Street

FOUR apartments could be built on the site of a former community building in Wordsley, under plans lodged this week.

Dudley-based developer CCAD Limited wants to build the home next to the Rose and Crown pub in High Street.

A 19th century community centre was located at the site but was demolished around 20 years ago.

Traffic

UKIP Councillor Paul Brothwood, a Wordsley representative, said: "I welcome development but my concern would be about the additional traffic along the road, which is already busy."

"I'll be looking into the application more closely to work out the resulting impact it may have."

The developer submitted an outline planning application for the flats to Dudley Council.

It comes after a proposal for a nearby site was submitted last month, for 26 homes on the site of the former warehouse off Marine Crescent in Wordsley.

The council will make a decision on both applications in the coming months.

Apartments

The college plans to demolish the Mons Hill Campus in two phases, to ensure the campus continues to serve students before the new centre is fully open.

Out of the 43 proposed homes, 25 would be two-bedroom houses, seven would be four-bedroom houses, five three-bed homes and six one-bed apartments.

Outline planning permission was given for the development by Dudley Council three years ago.

In response to the latest proposal, George Blackham, from Sedgley Local History Society, said: "The proposed housing development on this site is wholly inappropriate because of its proximity to the Wren's Nest National Nature Reserve and historic limestone workings of national importance."

The society want to see a visitor and educational centre built at the site.

The college has used the Mons Hill buildings since 1990. It was formerly Wrens Nest Secondary School, and Mons Hill School.

Public cash spent on theatre



Empty and unused Dudley Hippodrome has cost council taxpayers £20,000 over four years

MORE than £20,000 has been spent on repairs and security at the derelict Dudley Hippodrome since 2010, partly due to attacks by vandals.

Anti-vandalism paint has been daubed on parts of the venue to discourage thieves and jobs, while there has been a major operation to remove asbestos from the Castle Hill landmark.

Money has been spent on anti-pigeon measures at the theatre once graced by Laurel and Hardy, Judy Garland and George Formby.

Council funds have also been spent on reinforcing doors with steel sheets.

There are currently two bids on the table to bring the site back into use with the Friends of Dudley Hippodrome wanting to run it as a theatre again with community centre elements, while a leisure developer wants to turn it into a £8 million venue to rival Birmingham's nightspots.

Friends of Dudley Hippodrome group chairman Gordon Downing said: "This vandalism is systematic of the age that we are in. The council have a duty to protect it."

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Probe into death of man, 28, on a bus

THE Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) is to investigate the actions of officers after a Dudley man died on a bus in Wolverhampton

The IPCC is looking into the actions of police and a civilian staff member regarding the death of 28-year-old Tony Jones on a bus outside the city's main police station in the early evening of Friday, October 17.

The driver of the number one Dudley-to-Tettenhall service diverted the vehicle to the Bilston Street station due to concerns about Mr Jones, who is said to have collapsed on board.

IPCC spokesman Neil Coyte said at this stage investigators had established that the driver parked the bus outside and went in to request assistance to deal with the situation.

Mr Coyte said the driver returned to the counter at 6.36pm and ten minutes later he was joined by a passenger, and the bus driver called an ambulance.

Eyewitnesses say a female passenger came in shouting: "Help, help, he's not breathing."

Paramedics tried to resuscitate Mr Jones but he was declared dead at the scene.

Church holds tree festival

A DISPLAY of decorated Christmas trees will herald the festive season at a church this weekend.

Volunteers at St Mary's Church, in Kingswinford, are busy preparing for the annual Christmas Tree Festival.

There will also be stalls.

The event will take place at the church on Saturday between 10am and 4pm and on Sunday from 11.30am to 4pm.

Refreshments will be served in the church centre.

On Saturday, the Ladies Singers choir will also perform in the church.

Van hits post box

A DRIVER escaped with minor injuries when his van smashed into a post box in Netherton at around 5.30am on Saturday.

Two vans collided at the junction of Griffin Street and Marriott Road, and one hit the post box. Neither motorist was injured.

Fresh negotiations possible over mosque site

A NEW search for a mosque site in Dudley looks set to begin after council bosses agreed to open talks with Muslim leaders.

Dudley Muslim Association is locked in a long battle with Dudley Council over a proposal for a mosque on land off Hall Street.

Earlier this month, the association won planning permission for the mosque.

But it faces at least two court hearings and legal wrangles lasting at least two years before it can be built.

In an attempt to avoid the escalating

court costs and resolve community disharmony, Muslim leaders say they will consider alternative sites.

Unchanged

In response, council leader David Sparks has said he would welcome reopening negotiations, whilst confirming that the council's current legal position remained unchanged.

Five years ago, alternative options including Dudley Hippodrome and incorporating

Castle Casino as part of an expansion plan for the existing mosque on Castle Hill both fell through.

Councillor Sparks said: "It is for the Dudley Muslim Association to come forward with alternative sites and then we can discuss them."

However, association director Dr Khurshid Ahmed said it was up to the council to come up with alternative locations, not the Dudley Muslim Association.

Mr Ahmed said: "I am very pleased to

hear he is willing to talk to us because it is only by talking and constructive dialogue that we will put an end to the issue."

He added: "It is not for Dudley Muslim Association to come up with sites, the local authority is in a much better position.

"We have always been happy to talk to the council. We will accept a solution that meets our needs.

"But we have been given no viable alternative, so our only option has been to keep with the Hall Street scheme."

Environment bosses to talk to energy-from-waste firm

AN ENVIRONMENT watchdog opposed to a proposed waste recycling plant says it will open talks with the company behind the controversial scheme.

Clean Power resubmitted a plan to build the facility on land off Moor Street in Brierley Hill but it has received an objection from the Environment Agency.

The agency, which is also considering a permit application to operate the plant, said the location is unsuitable with housing 50 feet from the proposed site boundary.

It also fears the short distance from homes will open potential for complaints over odour and dust from the site, which would include two organic waste digestion tanks.

In a letter sent to Dudley Council, the agency said it would meet officers and Clean Power representatives to discuss the objection.

The firm's agents Icen Projects had written to the council asking for help in solving the problem posed by the agency's opposition to the scheme.

The move marks another twist for the proposal, which was first unveiled two years ago.

Following a public consultation, the firm lodged a planning application with Dudley Council, which was then thrown out by councillors over odour concerns. The plans have been revived but with air lock controls to tackle the smell issue.

Below average complaints

JUST over 400 complaints were lodged with Dudley Council over a six month spell. But the number of issues that people had with the local authority was less than the average amount received by other councils.

The authority received 405 complaints from April to October, the equivalent of 5.76 complaints per 10,000 people. The average for comparable authorities is 9.87 complaints for every 10,000 people.



Wagner meets fans during the festive lights switch-on, pic by Terrence R Alliband

An X-tra special guest at switch-on

THE X Factor star Wagner returned to his musical roots with a performance for hundreds of people at the turn-on of the Christmas lights in Dudley and Blackheath.

The Dudley-based Brazilian who became a tattooist in the town after his stint on the TV show sang his new Christmas single Switched On Like A Christmas Tree at the events on Saturday

Fantastic

He appeared in Dudley town centre for the light turn-on at 5pm, then at Blackheath for the switch-on at 6pm.

He was joined in Dudley by dance act Granny Turismo, who entertained the crowds with their routines featuring shopping trolleys.

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Margaret Aston, said: "The turn-out was fantastic. The performers gave it their all and I'd like to thank them for the contribution they made to the day."

"It was a real privilege to turn on the lights for the people of Dudley and I wish everyone a happy start to the festive season."

In Blackheath, Wagner joined Sandwell Mayor, Councillor Derek Rowley, to turn on the lights.

NEWS IN BRIEF

New menswear store at Merry Hill

A FASHION retailer will open a new store for men at Merry Hill shopping centre, creating 12 jobs.

London-based menswear store Open will welcome shoppers to its latest branch from Saturday.

Bosses say the store will celebrate the opening with a special event including free coffee and doughnuts for shoppers.

Open managing director Stephen Galea said: "We aim to deliver a simple no-nonsense approach to menswear."

Based in Barking, Open was founded in 2013.

Chip pan blaze damages kitchen

A PENSIONER was given oxygen after a chip pan fire at a ground floor flat.

Firefighters found a kitchen in flames at the property in Fozdar Crescent, Colesey, after the oil caught fire at around 6pm on Saturday. Watch Commander John Wildman said: "Two firefighters in breathing apparatus found a well-developed fire that had spread to the hood of the cooker and cupboards. Neighbours had helped a 77 year-old lady from the property."

Old Hill to get lit up for the season

A CHRISTMAS lights turn-on will take place in Old Hill, near Halesowen, on Saturday

The event will be at the Holy Trinity Church, and will start from 3.30pm.

There will be children's fair rides, face painting and a variety of gift stalls as part of the event.

Cradley Heath Salvation Army Band will also perform. The lights will be turned on at 5pm.

Foundry has won an industry award

A BLACK Country foundry was among the winners in the Cast Metals Federation's annual awards.

Thomas Dudley received the company achievement award. Joint managing director Martin Dudley was presented with the accolade. The foundry in Birmingham New Road has invested £50,000 to create a new visitor centre.

Cake sale at fair

AN autumn fair featuring cakes, a raffle and tombola will take place on Saturday.

The event will be at St James Church, in Eve Hill, Dudley, from noon. Admission is free.

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A GROUP of cat owners have posted images on the internet allegedly proving that, if you create a circle on the floor, a cat will automatically sit inside it. So I made a circle of rope on the lounge floor and our old tabby pointedly stayed outside it and eventually sat down next to it. This proves the oldest feline rule of all. The more you want a cat to do something, the less it will.

I LOVE this email: "Receive an envelope from the NHS today containing two letters. One confirmed a hospital appointment. The other cancelled it. This is factual. I'm not clever enough to make this stuff up."

I HAVE an explanation for the curious case of the reader whose smartphone suddenly produced a text message from an optician shortly after she walked past the premises. It is something called proximity marketing. But all the descriptions I have seen stress that users have to opt-in to the system in order to receive messages. You don't recall opting-in? I would hazard a guess that it was somewhere in the terms and conditions, that vast mass of legal bumph that nobody ever bothers to read. In fact, let's have a National T&C Day when everybody refuses to sign up to anything on the internet without first thoroughly reading every single paragraph of the terms and conditions. The system would crash.

ON the bodge-it-yourself website DIYnot, the conversation turns to the difficulty of finding good tradespeople in London. A contributor in the capital writes enviously: "Outside London all the people are well suited to manual labour. They all wear wellingtons and drive to work on tractors." Yup, that's us.

STRANGE times. It used to be the rule that anyone becoming prime minister would be more unpopular during his term in Downing Street than at any other time in his life. How times change. Weird Ed is record-breakingly unpopular before he gets anywhere near No 10 and Tony Blair, the multi-millionaire bringer-of-peace, is even more detested today than when he was in residence.

THE tear-jerking Sainsbury's yuletide advert, set in the Christmas Truce of 1914, has obviously been working its sentimental magic. A contributor to one of the national newspapers implores us: "Should we not have compassion for the thousands of German soldiers, also sons, fathers and brothers?" I can see why someone might want to extend remembrance to the amiable, photogenic young German soldiers in the Sainsbury's ad. But what about their comrades who ransacked the Belgian city of Louvain, torched its priceless medieval library and executed hundreds of civilians, including women and children? Do they, too, deserve a place in our hearts and a chunk of our Sainsbury chocolate? And what about Hitler's death squads, or today's enemy, the Taliban and their fellow beholders, the Islamic State? Are they all to be remembered with compassion, too? If not, why not? The moment we start extending compassion to all our enemies is the moment we put our soldiers on the same moral level as Jihadi John. Not in my name, thanks.

INCIDENTALLY, there's not much evidence that a football match was played between German and British soldiers during the 1914 truce. Most accounts describe the soldiers exchanging gifts, showing each other family photos and talking about football. No matter. The image of a football match is so powerful that it is remorselessly passing into history without the need for any historical evidence. It should have happened, so let us tell the kids it did happen.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Fares to rise for ring and ride service

RING and ride buses are having their funding slashed by £700,000 with fares to use them in the evening set to double.

Council leaders in the West Midlands will give £7.8 million to run the service next year, down from £8.5m for the current year.

It will mean the £1 fare for using the service after 7pm will go to £2.

But the Sunday service scrapped

this year will be brought back, with a £2 charge.

The £1 for using it Monday to Friday before 7pm is fixed.

Around 22,000 people use the door-to-door minibuses, operated by charity West Midlands Special Needs Transport.

It runs across Dudley, Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Walsall, Birmingham, Coventry and Solihull.

Earlier this year the 60p fare went up to £1.

Councillor Richard Worrall, who had previously led a 56,000 name petition against cuts, said council and transport bosses were 'making the best of a bad situation'.

The Walsall councillor said: "There is not a lot else they could do. Any service that is not required by law is vulnerable to cuts."

The decision has been made by the leaders of the councils who sit on the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority.

A public consultation saw users plead for the service to be retained.

The service had been at risk of losing all its subsidy.

The review of the service was led by Councillor Darren Cooper, leader of Sandwell Council.

MPs back new deal for pubs despite warnings

MAJOR West Midlands pub companies have warned that hundreds of closures and thousands of job losses could result from changes to 'beer tie' deals with landlords — despite Dudley MPs backing the move to free pub tenants.

Chris Kelly, Conservative MP for Dudley South, was among 40 Tory and Liberal Democrat rebels who backed an amendment to the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill — PM David Cameron's first defeat on a Government law since the Coalition was formed.

It will mean pub tenants tied to big companies being able to demand a 'market rent only' agreement. Currently, tied pubs exclusively buy alcohol products from the parent company in return for reduced rent on the premises and other benefits.

Concerns

There have been widespread concerns about the abuse of the practice by big pub firms.

But Britain's biggest pub landlord, Solihull-based Enterprise Inns warned the vote to reform the 'beer tie' could lead to more pub closures and job losses.

The British Beer and Pub Association (BBPA) said the vote was 'hugely damaging' and Staffordshire-based Punch Taverns said: "We believe that the amendment would be likely to have the effect of reducing

By Daniel Wainwright

ing pub investment, reducing consumer choice and exposing tenants to higher fixed rents, reduced levels of support and greater risk of failure."

Dudley North MP Ian Austin backed the amendment which will allow landlords to buy beer on the open market rather than buying all their beer from the pub's owner.

It will also mean they can have their rent checked independently to ensure it is fair.

Labour MP Mr Austin said: "The Black Country is home to some of the best brewers in Britain like Holdens and Fownes, and brilliant pubs like the Courthouse, the Fountain and the Jolly Crispin."

"I've supported the Campaign for Real Ale's campaign for a 'Pubs Charter' from the start so landlords get a fair deal from big brewers which will help keep local pubs open."

Skatepark is ready for action



Skatepark boss Gavin Pardoe with centre managers Richard Donlevy and Serena Pardoe

THE finishing touches are being put to a £200,000 indoor skatepark in Stourbridge ahead of its opening on Saturday.

Unit3Sixty will officially open in Mill Race Lane as work to transform a former industrial unit is completed. BMX riding, skateboarding and scooter riding will be among the activities at the centre.

A 'skateboard jam' took place last week giving some skaters their first chance to try out the ramps at the park. They also had the chance to watch professional skate

teams in action. Boss Gavin Pardoe said: "The building of the indoor skatepark is being carried out by 9C Ramps, famous for the Nike Tunnel Jam and the Nike Pool Party. No expense has been spared to ensure Unit3sixty becomes the best indoor skatepark in the UK."

The scheme has been made possible thanks to funding from several organisations, including £10,000 from council-run community forums and a £75,000 loan from the Charity Bank.

Veterans support scheme revealed

ARMED Forces veterans who are struggling to adjust to life after military service will get support through a new mentoring project.

National volunteering charity TimeBank is behind the scheme being organised locally through Dudley Council. Officials say veterans can face many challenges in adjusting to civilian life including financial hardship. The charity's Shoulder to Shoulder project provides regular one-to-one mentoring support.

A series of drop-in sessions will be held where veterans can get practical advice and talk through any issues they are facing.

The sessions are at Dudley Fire station, in Burton Road, on December 8, and in 2015 on January 8, February 4 and March 12. Session will also be held at Stourbridge Fire station, off Parkfield Road on December 22, January 22, February 16 and March 26. All sessions are between 10am and 1pm.

Andy Forster, programme manager at TimeBank's Birmingham office, said: "We're delighted that Dudley Council is funding this project to provide practical support for veterans across the borough."

Call 0121 236 253 for details.

Teen is hurt in collision

A TEENAGE boy was taken to hospital with facial injuries after being hit by a car in Dudley.

The crash took place on the Birmingham Road between the Castlegate roundabout and the Burnt Tree junction at 4pm last Tuesday. One lane was blocked as emergency services treated the teenager, who was later taken to Russells Hall Hospital.

On the same day, a man was injured when he was hit by a car which then hit the wall of Wizard and Glass Pub in Cradley Heath just after 9pm.

Comedy on menu

STOURBRIDGE Theatre Company are staging Alan Ayckbourn's play Table Manners at Stourbridge Town Hall. The comedy drama set in a dining room is performed from tonight (Thursday) to Saturday. Tickets cost £9 (concessions £7). Call 0870 320 7000.

Remembrance service

at Gornal Wood Crematorium

Sunday 14 December 2014, 11am and 3pm

This service is particularly appropriate where the funeral of a relative or friend has taken place at the crematorium, however, everyone is welcome.

Due to high demand, admission is by ticket only. Tickets are available by calling **01384 813982** or visiting the crematorium office in Chase Road from **Tuesday 25 November after 10.30am.**

At the end of each service staff will be available to show visitors around and answer any questions about the crematorium.

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Wordsley start-up money is available

BUSINESSES can apply for a share of a £16,000 cash pot to help set up in Wordsley.

Funding is also available for projects bringing empty shops back into use and helping to create jobs and investment.

The money is available via the Kingswinford North & Wall Heath, Kingswinford South and Wordsley Community Forum.

Ward councillor Paul Brothwood said: "I urge potential entrepreneurs to come forward and make use of this public money to improve our local community."

"This funding could act as a catalyst for further investment to be ploughed into our area which would in turn generate jobs and greater opportunities."

"The community forum also has additional funds available to help local projects and good causes in the area. I call on people to attend the forum meetings and learn more about what is happening in the area."

"This funding is a great opportunity and I urge people to seize it," he added.

To find out further information about the funding opportunities email cllr.paul.brothwood@dud-leymbc.org.uk or contact Dudley Council.

Baubles to boost charity

A STORE at Merry Hill shopping centre is raising money for vulnerable children by allowing shoppers to decorate its Christmas tree with baubles.

Customers at Homesense are able to buy a bauble for £1 on which to write their own festive message and hang on the store's tree.

All proceeds will go to Action for Children's centres in Smethwick and West Bromwich.

The campaign has been running for four years. Last year Homesense raised more than £75,000 for the Black Country charity's children's centres.

Gardening course

GARDENING enthusiasts can enhance skills with a Royal Horticulture Society course at Priory Park in Dudley. Participants are asked to pay £100 each towards the course, with the rest paid from the park's Heritage Lottery Fund grant. Call (01384) 812474.

Money transfer boss jailed for ignoring rules



Paramjit Singh Sangha

THE owner of a Black Country money bureau has been jailed for 12 months for failing to comply with regulations to combat money laundering.

Paramjit Singh Sangha, who runs PS Gold Exchange in Dudley, failed to carry out required checks before transferring up to £400,000 of his clients' money to India.

The 53-year-old of Spring Parklands did not check the identity of all his customers, failed to keep necessary documentation and did not train staff to spot suspicious activity.

He ignored warnings from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) of officers who visited him several times.

Colin Booker, assistant director of Criminal Investigation at HMRC, said: "Regulations exist to prevent businesses being used for money laundering purposes by criminals. People who run money services bureaux are required to take extra care when transferring larger sums of money, to help prevent criminally obtained cash from being laundered outside the UK."

"HMRC officers visited Sangha

on several occasions and advised him that he needed to take more care. He chose to ignore us, which is why he found himself in court."

Sangha pleaded guilty to four charges of failing to comply with regulations and was jailed at Wolverhampton Crown Court last week.

Most money service businesses that exchange currency, transmit money or cash cheques for their customers are required to comply with Money Laundering Regulations (MLRs). This includes registering with HMRC and undertaking

appropriate checks. All businesses that are covered by the regulations have to put in place suitable anti-money laundering controls.

This can include assessing the risk of the business being used by criminals to launder money, checking the identity of customers, keeping all documents that relate to financial transactions and making sure that employees are aware of the regulations and have the necessary training. Businesses are also required to report suspicious activity to the National Crime Agency.

Police station counter cuts move in bid to save £3m

DUDLEY Police Station is one of three in the borough that will close to the public amid £3 million cuts, the force has revealed.

The front counters at Dudley, Stourbridge and Halesowen have been earmarked to shut.

In total 27 front offices across the West Midlands will close with more than 90 of the 170 jobs at risk.

Opening hours will also be reduced at Brierley Hill. The

Plans put in motion for 2015 event

THE team behind the first Black Country festival are inviting applications from people hoping to host events in 2015.

Tens of thousands of people enjoyed hundreds of themed events marking official Black Country Day on July 14. Organisers are already planning for next year.

Committee member Stephen Pitts said: "We were delighted with the reaction of the public, not just at the showcase event in Dudley but at all the other events that went on throughout the four boroughs and in particular the number of people who had their own Black Country themed parties."

"The backing the public has given the festival in its inaugural year has put us in a very strong position to approach various partners and councils across the Black Country to help put on something truly special next year."

Anyone with an act, stall or event they would like to be included in next year's festival should email info@blackcountryfestival.co.uk

front counter which is currently available 24 hours a day will be open between 8am and 10pm. Sedgley Police Station will act as a contact point, staffed by volunteers.

Internet

West Midlands Police says the proposals to shut front counters follow an independent review, which shows the majority of the public no longer visit stations and instead make phone calls, use the internet or social media to contact officers.

But the plans have been met with anger and disappointment from councillors, unions and several Black Country MPs.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin has vowed to campaign against the closure plans for Dudley Police Station and has launched a petition urging bosses to rethink the move.

He said: "Dudley is a major town, not everyone who shops or lives there has a mobile phone and they ought to be able to speak to a police officer face to face."

Dudley Police Station is currently open throughout the week from 10am to 6pm. It costs the force £5.5m to run the counters.

Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said: "Ninety five per cent of people have mobile phones now, and can contact the police from anywhere."

Enchanting gifts from glass cone artists



Artists Bev Bernhard-Bridges, Sarah Jones and Paul Schubey, at Red House Glass Cone's Enchanted display

STUDIO artists at the Red House Glass Cone have put together an exhibition to 'enchant' visitors during the festive season.

It focuses on the magic of Christmas with artworks featuring fairies and pieces that embrace the early origins of the season.

The exhibition called Enchanted will include a wide range of interpretations of the theme in jewellery, ceramic, glass and lino-cut prints with pieces including glass-fused Christmas wreaths and paintings of local scenes.

Culture boss at Dudley Council, Councillor Hilary Bills, urged people to attend the exhibition. She said: "The made@the cone studio artists pull-out all the stops for their annual showcase. The Enchanted exhibition embraces the spirit of Christmas and the traditions of Yule to create some truly original pieces of work."

The artists who make up the made@thecone collective are Sarah Cannings, ceramicist and educator; Sarah Jones, lampwork glass artist; Jane Ellis, fused glass artist; Sean

Counley, fantasy inspired artist, picture framer and arts tutor; Charlotte Hughes-Martin, glassblower and glass engraver; Martin Yates, artist, writer and educator; Helen Savin, silk screen printer; Rebecca Handy, mixed media artist and jewellery maker; Stu Goodings, stained glass artist; Stuart Caldicott, horologist; and Paul Schubey, shabby chic furniture restorer.

The exhibition runs until January. The Red House Glass Cone in High Street, Wordsley, is open from 10am to 4pm, admission is free.

Pub toilets are flushed with pride

THREE pubs in Dudley have won acclaim for their toilets in the Loo of the Year Awards 2014.

The Abraham Darby at Merry Hill and The Clifton in Sedgley have each been awarded a platinum star rating by inspectors — the highest award — while The Waterfront Inn at Level Street, Brierley Hill, achieved a gold rating.

Loo awards boss Mike Bone said: "The toilets at each of the pubs have been designed and fitted out to a very high standard and are both clean and well maintained."

Technology tips for the elderly

OLDER people living near Brierley Hill are being offered help in how to use mobile phones and other digital technology.

The workshop on Monday is the first in a week of sessions at Age UK Dudley's Waterfront Activity Centre on Level Street.

Attendees will be given guidance on how to use iPads, laptops and other common technology. Places are limited and must be booked.

Call (01384) 571830 for more information.

Christmas fair to aid church funds

FAMILIES are invited to a Christmas fair at a Dudley church on Saturday.

The event at St Mark's in Pensnett will be opened by the Mayor of Dudley Councillor Margaret Aston at noon.

There will be stalls selling a range of items including cakes and plants. There will also be a tombola and a visit from Father Christmas. Proceeds will go to church funds.

Bingo bonanza with £195K win

A BINGO player has struck lucky taking home a jackpot prize of £195,388 in Oldbury.

The young bingo player, who regularly enjoys a game of bingo, called house at Mecca Bingo in the town.

The winner claimed the prize during the evening session on November 13, bosses announced.

Church festive fun

A CHRISTMAS fair will take place at an Upper Gornal church on Saturday. The event in aid of church funds will be at St Peter's Church, in Kent Street, from 10.30am to 2.30pm.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

IN THE nauseating new trailer for ITV's daytime schedule, Philip Schofield asks viewers what their phobias are.

I'm no expert on the subject. But I would imagine Gok Wan and Janet Street-Porter being dragged out of bed by Lorraine Kelly and told you need a make-over must all feature pretty highly.

□□□□

Twenty-seven police stations across the West Midlands are set to close their front counters over the next year in an effort to save £3m.

Under the plans, only just 10 will remain open, with only one of those remaining open round the clock.

For the first time in living memory, towns like Walsall and Dudley will have no police station where members of the public can walk in for help.

If you need to call into a police station in Wolverhampton or West Bromwich after 10pm, forget it.

Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson, says the front desks are a throwback from a bygone age, and that the world has moved on.

"Ninety-five per cent of people have mobile phones now, and can contact the police from anywhere," he says.

"Research shows that very few people are visiting front desks and prefer to phone the police or use the internet rather than go to a police station."

It really is hard to know where to start with all that.

I'm sure he's right most people would prefer to avoid calling into a police station unless they really have to.

Indeed I'm fairly sure, that in an ideal world, most of us would prefer never to need to have any dealings with the police at all. But it is nice to know they are there in case we need them.

If 95 per cent of the population has a mobile phone, that means five per cent don't have one.

What about them?

And, of course, contacting the police by phone these days invariably means being redirected to a call centre miles away.

And while 95 per cent may well have mobile phones, what happens when you have just been robbed of your phone in the city centre?

□□□□

And one other thing. Suppose you get pulled over by the police in your car, and they ask you to produce your documents the following day.

Will they be happy for you now to send them by text or email? Or will you now be expected to drive miles to find a police station which is still open?

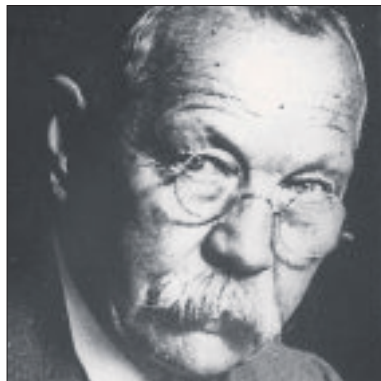
Just a thought.



Martin Clunes during a break in filming at Dudley



Drama co-stars Charles Edwards and Martin Clunes



Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, creator of Sherlock Holmes

Return to scene of crimes for Clunes

ANDREW TURTON on the making of a drama based on a case that intrigued the creator of Sherlock Holmes

ACTOR Martin Clunes has been travelling the country filming his latest TV drama but now the action has returned to the region where it all began – the West Midlands.

The incredible tale of a Staffordshire vicar's son wrongly jailed for an horrific attack on a pit pony and then dramatically proved innocent by Sherlock Holmes creator Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is to be told in a three-part ITV series.

The cast of Arthur and George last week came to the Black Country Living Museum to film in its authentic period buildings to recreate the tale which unfolded at the start of the 20th century and stunned the nation.

Producers turned to the cobbled streets and industrial canalside locations of the Black Country Living Museum to bring the new ITV drama to life.

Gripped

Vicar's son and Birmingham solicitor George Edalji, an Anglo-Asian, was wrongly convicted in 1903 after a series of vicious maiming attacks on horses and other livestock, which became known as the Great Wryley Outrages. The tale made headlines nationwide and it fell to Conan Doyle to play real-life detective to help to clear his name.

The Great Wryley Outrages are the centre of a three-part series starring Martin Clunes, best known for Cornish drama Doc Martin and the comedy Men Behaving Badly, as Conan Doyle.

Film crews and actors – including Clunes – arrived at the popular heritage



Martin Clunes about to film a scene for Arthur & George at the museum

museum, in Tipton Road, Dudley, to begin a three day shoot.

The museum's buildings were transformed into the Staffordshire village of Great Wryley in the 1900s when the outrages gripped the nation.

The tale has reached a new audience as in 2005 it was thrust back into the spotlight by author Julian Barnes whose Arthur and George novel was shortlisted for the Man Booker prize and has now been adapted for television.

Clunes finds his latest role intriguing.

added Clunes, who is starring alongside actor Charles Edwards who has appeared in Downton Abbey.

"It's strange how people can't always see the difference between Sherlock Holmes and his creator.

"People keep asking me if Benedict Cumberbatch is going to show up."

Clunes, sporting a cap and fake moustache on set in character, added: "The costumes are great. The waistcoats and shirts are designed by angels. But I wouldn't have liked to live in Victorian times. I'm too much of a fan of modern life."

Unusually for Clunes, filming is being done digitally so that Victorian London can be created via blue screen.

He said: "It doesn't really make any difference for the actors but the picture quality is amazing. Rushes are like Rembrandt."

George Edalji's ordeal began in part when a number of animals were found mutilated in the quiet village of Great Wryley. The outrages reached national notoriety when anonymous poison pen letters in the name of the 'Wryley Gang' were sent to the newspapers.

Edalji, whose father came from Bombay and was the vicar at St Mark's parish church, was sentenced to seven years inside Pentonville Prison for the Great Wryley Rippings, as they were also known.

Fearing a miscarriage of justice and a racist element to the case, Sir Arthur and his trusted manservant, Alfred 'Woody' Wood, investigated and began a campaign to clear Edalji's name.

The Tipton Road museum has also recently been used for filming 1920s gangster drama Peaky Blinders.

Black Country Living Museum spokeswoman Laura Wakelin said: "We are very pleased that the museum is being used as a filming location in yet another primetime drama – especially one whose story is embedded in local history."

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

AMID the anger over the planned closure of police station front desks, I have to feel a little bit sorry for David Jamieson.

The West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner was elected into the role at enormous cost and on a measly low turnout.

At £3.7 million and serving an electorate of about two million, it was one of the biggest and most expensive by-elections ever. While Labour's Mr Jamieson won a decisive victory with more than 50 per cent of the votes cast, it was not the greatest moment for democracy. Barely one in 10 people bothered to vote for who they wanted to fill a role few even understood. Almost two years on from when the role was created, not that many wanted to accept the offer of greater political and democratic accountability within the force.

This week a lot of people read the name David Jamieson. MPs from his own party are demanding he change a plan to shut the front desks of 27 police stations and reduce the opening hours of others.

The argument in favour is that few people go to the police station in person now, preferring instead to communicate by phone or internet. But, inevitably, the talk turns to the £3 million saving, coming as it does at a time of deep cuts in police funding.

If there was no police and crime commissioner in the first place, there would have been no election and therefore no cost to the taxpayer. In short, that's another year's worth of front desks staying open.

Before anyone gets all pedantic and points out that the election costs are met by the Home Office and the front desks by the police, just remember it's all public money. The source of it, whether central or local government, is you.

Where I feel especially sorry for David Jamieson is how isolated he now appears within his own party. His colleagues in Parliament are keeping things professional but they are all agreed this is a bad idea.

They put on a united front by blaming the Government for the cuts but the decision on how to deal with them rests with the Commissioner. If he does give in to demands of Westminster politicians it would call into question the whole point of the role.

When Dudley Labour MP Ian Austin brought up the plan with William Hague in the Commons he was just told how satisfied people have been with the police, effectively pushing responsibility back to Mr Jamieson in his office in Birmingham.

The review of front desks was started by Mr Jamieson's predecessor Bob Jones, whose sudden death triggered the by-election.

There will now be quite a lot of people looking at these proposals and saying how they certainly didn't vote for this. Of course, that includes the vast majority who didn't vote at all.

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

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money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

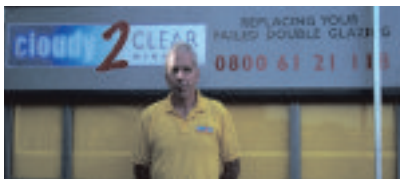
We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

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area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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MERRY Hill enjoys 25 years success!
The people who own 'Merry Hell' are rubbing their hands together, raking in 25 years of profits.

To the local people who live close to the centre, at certain times of the year it can only be described as motoring madness.

No investment has been made in the road systems around the centre, leading to congestion at peak times. The centre traffic builds up as far back as Commonside.

Trying to get out is even worse. At the island in Level street, no thought has been

given to the traffic trying to get through to Pensnett and beyond, and the hundreds of cars coming out of the centre that merge at the same island.

The centre owners and Dudley Council need to get together and sort out the mess they have created. No thought was even given at the planning stage to the poor road systems around Brierley Hill. The roads are too narrow, and the traffic lights for the Brierley Hill bypass has made things worse.

D POTTER
Brierley Hill

Size of mosque building too large

I SAW the picture of the proposed mosque and the size of it appalled me.

It is too large for the place it is to be built, and too large for Dudley itself.

The problem is, when or if it is built, will it end there? Or will the those behind the mosque plan buy up other land around about, and continue building other amenities, until we have a small Muslim town within a town?

The building of the mosque is against the wishes of the majority of the people of Dudley.

P STEEN
Stourbridge

It's the words that matter

RE J Grainger 'Songs just not praise worthy'. Sadly for you the tune is more important than the spiritual message within the words.

I did not hear Michael Ball's interpretation, but surely a new tune brings fresh emphasis to the old words and re-energises the importance of those words and, God willing, brings those words to a new generation.

Perhaps the small mindedness of some folk has brought the church to where it is today?

MARK A GORDON
Wimbledon Drive
Stourbridge

Stage could ruin project for gardens

A few weeks ago Dudley Council announced a £1.3m project to revamp the Coronation Gardens.

The refurbishment is to include the re-building of the wall by the fountain - great news, long overdue.

The refurbishment of Apollo Fountain is also great news though I'm not so sure about the re-introduction of water - could invite vandalism. Then, with the plus comes a whopping minus.

After Priory Park, the gardens are probably our second jewel in the crown. It has flowers, lawns, walk-throughs, seating and now the cenotaph. Why on earth does the council feel a need to build a stage and outdoor centre and events area on this lovely place? It will ruin the gardens and part of the money should go on other things in the town.

Look at what didn't happen on that other great idea. The square in Stone Street cost us over £800k - and for what? It was once a bus stop and a car park, you know, useful things.

S HUNT
Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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expressandstar.co.uk

Don't target our vital youth services

HAVING been a leader for 47 years in the voluntary youth service in the Dudley borough I find the proposed closure of the universal youth service (with the exception of all but one) very alarming.

To invest in the future we must invest in our children and young people.

Our children and young people should not be an easy option to save money.

Over the years, Dudley MBC has taken many privileges away from the youth service.

With the introduction of extended schools our four groups, with an average of 80 children and young people attending each week, lost the free bookings of the school hall. Many facilities for our youth have been lost

over the years, canoeing, sailing, rock climbing and the withdrawal of ten youth and community mini-buses.

The closure of any of our youth centres or services will be a great mistake as they are providing a place to meet and a safe haven. Bored groups will soon add to the problems that already exist, bringing even greater problems to the communities.

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Deadline for charity box filling

Wombourne WI

BEFORE the business of the evening Tina, from Samaritan Boxes, came to take the things we had collected for this charity.

She thanked us on behalf of the charity. The boxes have to be ready by the December 6.

Our speaker for the evening was Peter Moody who came to talk to us about Beacon, Sedgley. Begun in 1875 the centre has seen many changes including names. In 1926 it was known as Wolverhampton Society for the blind and the old buildings had workshops.

Unfortunately cheap imports soon saw these building out of use so they were knocked down. Rebuilding has been done in stages, finally completed in 2009 and reopened as a charity to help local people with sight loss. Around four percent are totally blind other members are helped with varying problems arising from cataracts, diabetes, glaucoma, macular degeneration, sight loss after strokes etc. Beacon has more than 50 apartments, almost like sheltered accommodation, including a shop, hairdressers, activity centre and coffee shop. There are day members too and all enjoy the wider range of activities and excursions on offer. We look forward to a future visit to be shown round. A lovely, informative evening.

Our meetings are now held at Wombourne Community Centre on the second Wednesday of each month. All are welcome to join us.

Grand trip proved to be a real topper

Wombourne E TG

THE November meeting began with a short introduction from the Committee.

A trip to see Top Hat at the Grand had been a great success being an excellent production. Both Chris and Doreen were thanked for organising the much enjoyed Beetle 'cat' Drive.

Chairman Dorothy Bailey then introduced our speakers, John and Annette Christophers from Albrighton Pottery. We were well entertained by John on the origins of the use of clay by our ancestors.

The highlight of the evening involved all members getting involved in a project. Anne very ably instructed and produced a bowl ready for firing. Christmas celebrations will begin with the Federation of TGs Carol service at St John's in the Square Wolverhampton on Saturday December 6 at 11am.

The monthly meeting on December 11 at 7.30pm in the Community Centre, Wombourne will be a Christmas Celebration with supper provided.

Getting ready for the festive season

Trysull & Seisdon WI

A warm welcome was given to all the members and visitors.

This month's meeting was all about Getting ready for Christmas our speaker for the evening was Linda Jackson who had come along to demonstrate a variety of flower arrangements.

Linda demonstrated simple arrangement suitable for the Christmas dinner table, a grand arrangement that would dress the finest of hall's and arrangements that could fit around the home and set the scene for the festive season.

We all sat, watched and listened to some of Linda's memorable moments, which certainly entertained us whilst she was creating her arrangements.

We had a most enjoyable time and the flower arrangement 's were raffled off and the following names were the lucky winners, Mary Westwood, Ena Wooddisse, Claire Shinton, Peggy White, Freda Fellows, Freda Perks, Sue Cotterell and Barbara Morris.

The competition for a Homemade Christmas Craft was won by Freda Fellows.

We are holding our WI Christmas Party on December 11 at the Village Hall, Trysull.

The Women's Institute meet every second Thursday in the month at the Village Hall, Trysull, 7.30pm.

We are always pleased to welcome new members and visitors.

Memories from Wall Heath

LOCAL historian John Sparry spoke at the November meeting of the Society about his Kingswinford and Wall Heath Memories.

Born in Kingswinford he told of the local characters, shopkeepers and neighbours whilst living in Moss Grove. After the family moved to Wall Heath he recounted incidents during the war of bombs dropping locally and of his journeys to school in Stourbridge. The Society meets at the Community Cen-

K-ford and District Historical Society

tre, High Street, Kingswinford. The December meeting starts at an earlier time of 7pm as this begins with the AGM.

The Society is in need of new officers and committee members and unless volunteers come forward it is likely the Society will close in 2015. Further details from Ron Julian 01384 295848.

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MP backing move to stop supermarket at pub site

PLANS to convert a popular Sedgley pub into a supermarket have been met with a string of objections after proposals were submitted to the council.

The Marston's-owned pub The Seven Stars, on Gospel End Road, would be turned into a Morrisons supermarket under the plans.

When the scheme was first revealed in August, it sparked outrage in the community and within two weeks a campaign group gathered more than 1,500 signatures on a petition opposing the idea.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin said he too will be lobbying against the proposal, which is being discussed by Dudley councillors on Monday.

Protection

"Pubs like the Seven Stars are at the heart of the local community, so I'm disappointed that Marston's is pressing ahead with plans to turn it into a supermarket," said the Labour MP.

"I'm backing local campaigners all the way on this and, with their help, we've already secured extra protection for the pub as an Asset of Community Value.

"Now I'll be working with residents to lobby against this application for change of use and keep The Seven Stars open," he added.

Concerns raised by objectors to the planning proposal include losing a pub that is still popular within the community and the effect a new supermarket would have on local businesses.

Nearly 30 objections have been made so far.

As a result of concerns, a motion will be discussed by councillors that would force planners to consider the community value of pubs like The Seven Stars. The motion is being supported by MP Mr Austin.



The Seven Stars pub in Sedgley could be closed to make way for a store

UKIP councillor Bill Etheridge, who has registered his objections, said: "This development is unwanted by the local residents, will prove disastrous for local businesses and will kill a well-loved family pub.

The pub has undergone a series of refurbishments in recent years.

It is now a one-room pub with the former back bar converted into a dining space.

Objector, Elaine Doughty, of Woodbank Road, said: "This current building is an asset to the local community.

"It is a place that locals frequent for all sorts of special occasions."

and from school, will force these parents to park elsewhere, creating even more problems."

The pub has undergone a series of refurbishments in recent years.

It is now a one-room pub with the former back bar converted into a dining space.

Objector, Elaine Doughty, of Woodbank Road, said: "This current building is an asset to the local community.

"It is a place that locals frequent for all sorts of special occasions."

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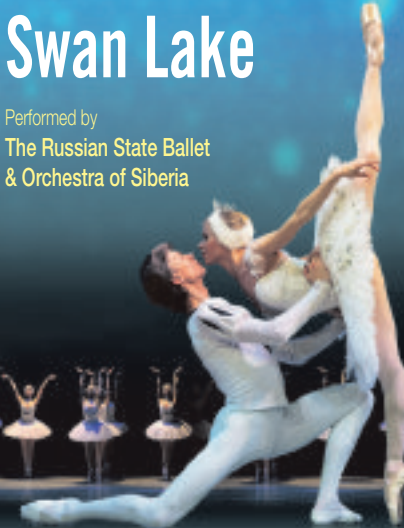
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Sign the petition to keep police station open to public

IT'S my job to speak up for the hard-working and law-abiding majority in Dudley.

So I'm really concerned about plans for Dudley Police Station to close its doors to the public.

The closure would leave Dudley as the largest town in the country without a police station open to the public.

Spending cuts are forcing West Midlands Police to close another 27 stations across the West, with others like Sedgley carrying on with volunteer staff for the time being.

Slippery

This is what happens when the Government cuts spending too quickly and too deeply.

When opening hours were being cut down at Dudley Police Station two years ago I warned that it would be the start of a slippery slope with further cuts to come.

Now we're being told that people in Dudley won't be able to speak to police officers face-to-face at all.

Local people are outraged. Like me they think that a town the size of Dudley should have a properly staffed police station so you can always see an officer in person if you need to.

I'm doing everything I can to keep our station open.

Last week I stood up in Parliament and told the Government to keep our station open, and I kicked off a petition that has been signed by 1,000 local people in less than a week.

I'm also pushing for guar-

THE WAY I SEE IT



Dudley North Labour MP Ian Austin takes the stand in our weekly Chronicle column which gives our local representatives the chance to air their views

'A town the size of Dudley should have a properly staffed police station so you can always see an officer in person if you need to'

When me or a member of my family is ill, we queue up at Russells Hall like anybody else in Dudley does.

So I share the concerns of hundreds of local people who wrote to me last week asking me to protect our local hospital.

I made sure I could be in Parliament to speak up for local people and vote in support of Labour legislation to protect the NHS from cuts and privatisation.

This is a really important issue here in Dudley where managers at Russells Hall have said that jobs are at risk as they battle with a £12 million deficit that the chief executive says is "critical".

Cancer

Staff are working flat out but the hospital is being investigated for waits at accident and emergency.

Cancer treatment targets have been missed three months running, and some patients wait up to five hours for chemotherapy.

The Tories and UKIP say they back the NHS, but they won't challenge the reforms that have put Russells Hall in danger.

I know local people think that's not good enough.

Like me they think we should rip up Tory reforms and start again with an NHS that puts patients before profits, bureaucracy and profits.

Until we do that we're stuck with a health service that wastes money on profits instead of patients.

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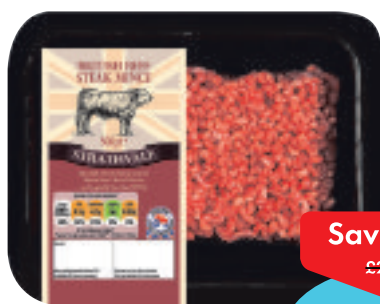
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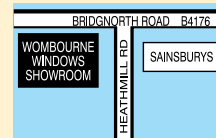
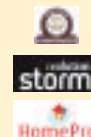
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Benefits shake-up will leave more tenants in debt

Leaders create ten year plan for transport

Nurse gets award for help with cancer care



Karen Lewis, Macmillan Palliative Care Educator based at Russells Hall Hospital, has been recognised for her work

A NURSE based at Russells Hall Hospital has been honoured for her work helping to improve palliative care for people affected by cancer in Dudley.

Karen Lewis, a Macmillan palliative care educator, was recognised at the prestigious 2014 Macmillan Excellence Awards. The awards, now in their third year, celebrate the outstanding work carried out by Macmillan professionals across the country.

Former world champion swimmer and record holder Mark Foster, presented Karen with an award for Integration Excellence. She has improved the integration of services which has improved the experiences and outcomes of people affected by cancer. Her award-winning work involved training more than 70 healthcare professionals across Dudley to become Palliative Care Champions.

Paula Clark, chief executive at The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust said: "Karen has made a huge difference for patients in Dudley."

'Mash' teams to protect children from abusers

TEAMS of police, council, probation and health workers to protect children from abuse could be set up across the Black Country.

West Midlands Police chiefs say they are pleased with the performance of a 'multi-agency safeguarding hub' (Mash) in Oldbury and have held discussions about opening others in Dudley and Wolverhampton.

They aim to bring together staff from the council, police, probation, NHS and voluntary sector who work with children and families at risk.

The discussions were part of a wider debate about child sexual exploitation during a meeting of the Strategic Po-

lice and Crime Board. Police chiefs spoke of the unique challenges posed by exploitation, including abuse in the home and online.

Chief Constable Chris Sims said: "This is a big and complicated issue. There has been a sea-change in public opinion on this area in recent months. That is hugely positive but we are only at the beginning of that change."

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary has given the force six weeks to improve child protection. Despite tight budgets, the force's Public Protection Unit has been more than doubled to near 800 officers.

SWEEPING changes to benefits will mean thousands of council house tenants fall into debt.

An organisation in charge of council housing is warning people that they face being evicted unless they keep on top of their money as a new system sees them paid the cash into their bank accounts, instead of their benefits going to their landlords.

Wolverhampton Homes expects that Universal Credit will eventually affect around 8,500 of tenants in its 23,000 homes.

Replacing

There were half a million working age people on benefits in February this year in the West Midlands. They included 32,235 in Wolverhampton, 30,885 in Walsall, 38,595 in Sandwell and 30,125 in Dudley.

Universal Credit is replacing Job-

By Daniel Wainwright

seeker's Allowance, housing benefit, working tax credit, child tax credit, employment and support allowance and income support. It will begin to be rolled out in the West Midlands from February, initially only to new claimants of working age.

It means anyone on benefits at the time it is introduced will not be immediately affected, but anyone who loses their job or has to begin claiming welfare for another reason will be put on it.

Wolverhampton Homes is warning of a risk of people falling behind with their payments as they will be responsible for using their benefits to pay the landlord, rather than the money being transferred directly to the housing provider.

Mark Henderson, director of housing, said: "There is a risk to the pay-

ment cycle. Some people will have large amounts of money paid each month that they would not have had before because it's currently paid weekly or fortnightly.

"There's a risk of temptation. With the initial small numbers we will have the resource to ring people one to one. But as numbers grow that won't be possible."

He said if large numbers of people do get into debt it will affect the organisation's ability to make repairs and contribute to the building of new council housing.

It is expected that around 30 per cent of tenants affected will find it difficult to pay. Universal Credit will be rolled out in full by 2017.

Wolverhampton Homes found itself chasing rent from large numbers of people affected by the so-called 'bedroom tax' - the reduction in housing benefit for people with spare rooms - that hit 3,000 people in the city.

A TEN year plan for transport in the West Midlands is to be drawn up.

Leaders of the seven West Midlands metropolitan councils and the region's three Local Enterprise Partnerships are already working together on initiatives to increase economic output, jobs and housing. They say they need to improve transport links to make the most of controversial high speed rail project HS2.

The seven leaders, who together with representatives from the three LEPs make up the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority (ITA), agreed at a meeting in Birmingham to draw up a strategic transport plan.

Councillor Roger Lawrence, leader of Wolver-

hampton City Council and chairman of the ITA, said: "We believe we can unlock far greater economic potential for the Midlands by taking advantage of the better transport connections that HS2 will bring."

"It's vital we have a clear, ambitious but achievable plan for transport if we are going to reach that full potential. We have agreed to commission a ten year strategic plan that can help grow the economy and create the new jobs and extra housing we need."

Dudley, Walsall, Sandwell, Birmingham, Coventry and Solihull are also part of the group.

Councillor Lawrence added: "There is a real opportunity to turn the Midlands into an economic powerhouse."

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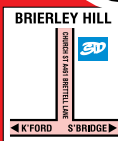
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Experience the sights and smells of a bygone era, a time when festive traditions like trees and crackers were just taking off.

From December 19 to 23, the Black Country Museum will open its doors at 6.30pm for anybody who wants the nostalgic excitement of a Victorian Christmas.

With a full cast of actors ready to bring famous scenes from classics such as A Christmas Carol to life and a pantomime version of Hansel and Gretel performed by Fizzog Productions, it promises a old time Christmas with a Black Country twist.

Houses will be warmed by open fires and will be simply decorated as fits the era, while carol singers can be joined in the chapel for anybody who fancies a festive sing-along.

Roast meat and chestnuts will be available from vendors in the streets, and adults can look forward to mulled wine. Visitors will also be able to take part in making a boiled Christmas pudding.

Irene Deboo, curator of

By Matthew Growcut

domestic and cultural live at the Black Country Living Museum said: "Victorians were the ones that reinvented Christmas. There's the famous story of Prince Albert and his Christmas tree in 1841, there's Charles Dickens and A Christmas Carol. This was the first time where people actively collected and made carols."

"All of these things start to come into full flow around this time, and on site we have the Victorian Environment that lets us recreate that atmosphere."

Tickets cost £15.95 for adults, £7.95 for children. Bookings made before November 30 will receive a 20 per cent discount. For more information see bclm.com/Christmas.

Council leader is standing down



National role — Leader of Dudley Council and Labour leader Councillor David Sparks

THE leader of Dudley Council has announced he will stand down from the role next month.

Councillor David Sparks has also resigned from his role as leader of the Labour Party on the authority with immediate effect. He will step down as council leader at the next meeting of the full council on Monday after a successor has been appointed.

Councillor Sparks said he felt it was the right time to give up the role as a new chief executive, Sarah Norman, is due to start in January, when a reduced management team will be put in place. He has been leader of the council since May 2012 and leader of the Labour Group since 2004.

In July this year, Councillor Sparks was also appointed as chairman of the Local Government Association since July this year. He said standing down from his council leader position would also enable him to focus more on this role, working with councils nationwide to 'deliver local solutions to national problems.'

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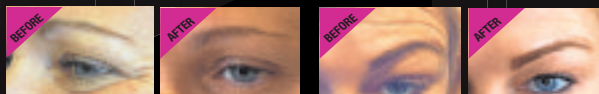
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"I cannot stress enough how much pride we take in every window, door, conservatory, orangerie we manufacture and install."

With its roots in manufacturing, the business started more than 19 years ago, and right from the very start an emphasis has been placed on supplying only the finest and most energy-efficient products, but still remaining affordable.

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installing conservatories and more recently Orangeries," says Nathan.

One tremendously satisfied customer is Rick Houghton. Having being recommended to Choices Windows by colleagues at work he employed them to carry out extensive work at his home, he is keen to share his experiences and commend the team involved.

"Every stage of the process was excellently planned and we received nothing but the best service from start to finish. The tradesmen were outstanding and we were so impressed that we handed over our keys and went on holiday whilst the work was being carried out."

Rick and his family were absolutely thrilled and utterly delighted with the results on their return.

"We are so grateful to Nathan and his team for transforming our home into something we could only have dreamed of," remarked Rick.

Keen to keep ahead in the style stakes, Nathan is ever aware of the latest designs, materials and colours on offer, and strives to make these available to his customers.

"Many people are now opting for stylish coloured PVC-U, influenced by timeless muted 'National Trust' tones. Sage green, gun metal grey and cream are all becoming very fashionable alongside the traditional clean bright white," explains Nathan.

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"After many years in the Double glazing business we have seen a lot of competitors come and go, unfortunately leaving many customers without any warranty, after parting with their hard earned cash. Any customer who is considering having any home improvements should choose carefully and do their homework on the company they are considering, ensure if you part with money upfront it is protected by a Fensa approved deposit indemnity scheme, ask to visit previous customers but most importantly don't be fooled by the salesmen's tactics of a tempting "sign on the night low price offer" that the double glazing industry is notorious for," advises Nathan.

The old sayings are always the best - after a low price is long forgotten, poor quality long remains".

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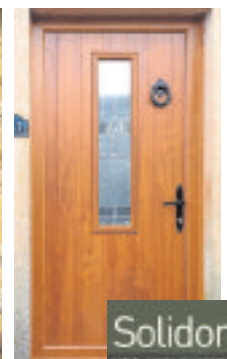
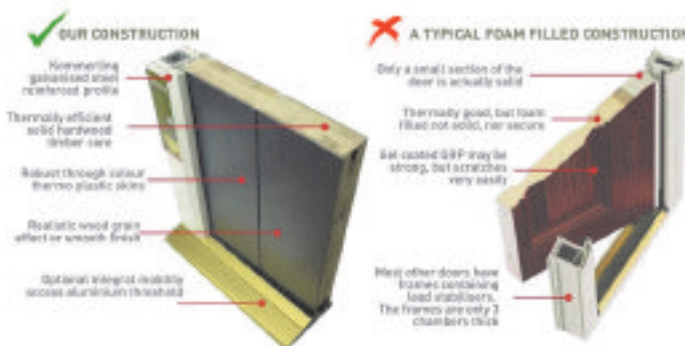
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Family fundraiser is in memory of comic Lee



All for grandad — the grandchildren of comedian Lee Wilson are planning a family fundraising day in his honour

THE family of Black Country comedian Lee Wilson are raising money in his name at a charity event on Sunday.

Mr Wilson, whose real name was Geoff Beards, died four weeks after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. A year on and four of his grandchildren are organising a fundraiser to coincide with Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month.

The event will be at the River Rooms in Stourbridge from noon to 4pm. It will feature up to 10 stalls as well as a Santa's grotto and raffle.

Cash raised will go to Pancreatic Cancer Action.

Mr Wilson, of Pedmore, died aged 74. He had turned professional in 1973, won TV talent show New Faces in 1976 and starred on TV show The Comedians. He was also a familiar face with the Black Country Night Out.

Jasper Carrott and Tom O'Connor were among the 350 people who attended his funeral at Oldswinford. He was survived by his wife Sheila and children Tracy, Lee and Debbie. Grandchildren Ellie, Libby, Emily and Sam Martin are organising the fundraiser.



Lots of laughs — comedian Lee Wilson



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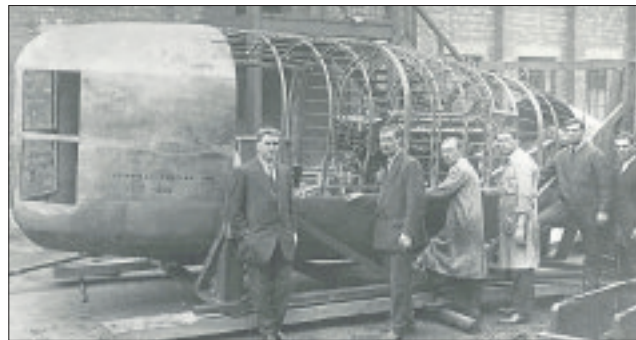
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Reginald Tildesley staff in Willenhall ready to sell Ford cars



Harry Nott, ex-RFC, at his wedding



Sunbeam workers in 1919 with one of the airship gondolas they were to produce



A Guy 6-wheel bus, one of post war success stories



Some of the many in Josiah Parkes in 1922

How post-war work return never took off

AT 11 am on November 11, 1918 the guns fell silent across the world.

They were firing right up to the last second, as many of the gunners began to claim that they had fired the last shot in the 'War to End all Wars'.

Then began the process of returning the millions of men and women, but mostly men to their homes, where many expected to return to their old jobs, supplanting the women who had taken their place; but things were not as simple as that.

Wolverhampton, and the Black Country in general, were geared up for war, turning out munitions, warplanes, guns, and all the paraphernalia of the modern conflict.

Orders were cancelled, though production of, now unwanted items, continued into 1919.

MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

Companies had to find new products to turn their skills to. Wolverhampton was well served in the new motorised age with many vehicle manufacturers, who thought they could return to car and motor-bike production and find a ready market with the returning servicemen, many of whom had become well used to motor vehicles during the four years of conflict.

Dominated

Sunbeam returned their car production from Rover in Coventry but still hoped to make a large business in the production of aero-engines, which had dominated the Villiers Street factories during the war.

They were to find that the competition from Rolls-Royce in par-

ticular and from cheap war-surplus engines was too much, and they hardly sold an aircraft engine after the war.

Round the corner Star returned to car production, but were never able to sell enough from their confined factories to sustain the business, and firstly their Briton division and then Star itself went to the wall, and Edward Lisle, founder of the company took his life.

Guy returned to making trucks, and became hugely successful.

Other companies were also to find ready markets for their metal-bashing skills, making locks, bicycles, ploughshares, and all the nuts and bolts to put them together.

Elsewhere servicemen returned to quieter lives, opening shops, starting their own businesses, often with the skills they had learned in the Army, and looked forward to re-building their lives.



Edward Lisle who took his own life after business failure

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Les Mis is revolutionary choice for school show



Hannah Clay as Cosette and Callum Rogers as Marius with fellow Les Misérables cast members at Lower Gornal

STUDENTS are bringing an epic production to audiences in Dudley with their version of one of the West End's longest-running musicals.

Pupils at Ellowes Hall Sports College, in Lower Gornal, have become well known for their dazzling stage shows — and now they are tackling Les Misérables, complete with a revolving stage.

They called in a specialist stage company to build the moving stage to allow them to create impressive sets

for the musical famous for his recreation of a barricade from the doomed Paris uprising of 1832.

Staff have also brought in pyrotechnics to create cannon explosions and gun shots to immerse the audience in the action.

The stage has been extended over the orchestra pit to help boost the scale of the show.

Students have been busy in rehearsals since May to perfect their performances of the Schönberg musical based on Victor Hugo's classic French novel. The show as recently made into an Oscar-winning film with Hugh

Jackman, Anne Hathaway, Russell Crowe and Eddie Redmayne.

Taking on Jackman's role as Jean Valjean is Year 13 student Luke Millard. The part of Cosette is being played by Year 11 pupil Hannah Clay and Year 12 student Callum Rogers will play love-struck young revolutionary Marius.

The show got its first performances last week and was again being performed this week before the gala finale tomorrow (Friday).

Assistant headteacher John Bailey said around 100 students were taking part, on stage on behind the scenes.



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Girl group album is a surefire Bette

Reviews by Leon Burakowski

BETTE Midler has long been the queen of cabaret-style entertainment with her blend of ballads, show tunes and wicked sense of humour.

To most under-30s she is probably best known as the funniest of the three witches in Disney's Halloween favourite Hocus Pocus.

Now she's back with her tribute to girl group pop, from the 1930s to 90s. It's **The Girls** is a classy project with Bette providing her own backing vocals, though she enlists the queen of backing singers Darlene Love to duet on The Crystals' He's Sure The Boy I Love. Be My Baby, One Fine Day and Tell Him stick close to the originals.

Elsewhere she gives the songs an interesting twist, introducing a hint of her home state of Hawaii to Mr Sandman and brilliantly slowing Martha and the Vandellas' Come And Get These Memories to a poignant ballad. A stripped back, piano-led version of TLC's Waterfalls packs an emotional punch and she even pulls off a banjo-picking hill-billy version of You Can't Hurry Love. The album ends in fine vintage style with the Dixieland jazz of It's The Girl.

Bette Midler begins her first UK tour in 35 years at the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham on July 9.

The combined CD/DVD package **Whitney Houston Live: Her Greatest Performances** combines 16 tracks plus 18 video performances, starting with her teenaged debut singing Home on The Merv Griffin TV show in 1983, via her Super Bowl performance of The Star Spangled Banner in '91 to her emotional I Didn't Know My Own Strength on The Oprah Winfrey Show in 2009. She died in 2012, aged only 48.



Whitney Houston — many of her famous live performances on a new album



Bette Midler — the singer and comedienne pays tribute to girl groups

As a live album, this doesn't hang together as well as a single concert performance but Whitney fans may enjoy the overview of her career.

Whitney Houston also appears on **Barry Manilow** album **My Dream Duets** in which Barry sings with a lot of very famous but very dead stars of popular music. It may have been a dream come true for Manilow to duet with Judy Garland, Sammy Davis Jr, Dusty Springfield, Louis Armstrong, etc. I think it is more of a nightmare.

These are not true duets with musical to-and-fro between the artists, they are — however expertly done — slice and splice jobs. It's a bad concept and a creative cul-de-sac for an artist who is surely talented enough to create music without technically resurrecting art-

ists who have no say in the matter. A sample is one thing but to tamper with these artists' music within the genres in which they excelled is questionable.

Moody dance anthems come with an Ibiza twist from synth pop veterans **Erasure** on new album **The Violet Flame**. The duo celebrate nearly 30 years of hits at a sold-out Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Saturday.

Young singer-songwriter James Page, under stage name **Sivu**, creates a potent atmosphere on his debut album **Something On High**. It's a blend of tremulous vocals and haunted soundscapes with songs of isolation and yearning. Listen if you like London Grammar or Wild Beasts. He will be supporting Bombay Bicycle Club at Wolverhampton Civic on December 10.

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Detecting a gem available on DVD

ON a comedy scene that seems to be getting increasingly cruel and vulgar, recent rural sitcom Detectorists was a welcome dose of gently-paced whimsy on BBC4.

Written and directed by Mackenzie Crook (from The Office), he and Toby Jones (Infamous/Marvelous) play a pair of metal detector enthusiasts who think they are in with a chance of discovering a buried treasure of Staffordshire Hoard proportions. They face competition from a rival metal detecting club, a bonkers landowner and flawed relationships with the opposite sex.

A nicely acted ensemble piece in a market town setting, if not seen it is worth discovering now on DVD.

Leon Burakowski

South songs will fill the Civic Hall

THE songs of The Beautiful South and new album What Have We Become will be heard by a full house at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Friday for Paul Heaton and Jacqui Abbott.

On Friday Peter Gabriel is at the LG Arena, Diversity dance at the NIA, and Gertcha duo Chas & Dave are at Birmingham Town Hall. Synth pop pair Erasure have filled the Civic Hall on Saturday, the same night Wolverhampton's Scott Matthews performs his haunting album Home Part 1 at Birmingham Town Hall. McBusted and Ed Sheeran are among Saturday's acts at Free Radio Live at the LG Arena.

Oh what a night as the Jersey Boys arrive for festive season

Giving Peace a chance



ROCK band Peace follow their acclaimed debut album In Love with their second album, Happy People, on February 9.

The guitar crashing lo-fi outfit bring their surly sound home to the West Midlands for a gig at Birmingham's Institute on January 24.

Droitwich brothers Harry and Sam Koiser joined forces with Doug Castle and Dom Boyce at Worcester Sixth Form College.

In 2014 the band played the main stage of Reading and Leeds festival, sold out numerous dates throughout the UK and released singles Money and Lost on Me.

Fans of Bombay Bicycle Club will get a preview of the new songs with Peace due to support them at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on December 10.

Happy People — Worcestershire rock band Peace are unveiling their 'scuzzy but beautiful' new album, mostly produced by Arctic Monkeys and Kasabian producer Jim Abbiss

JERSEY Boys has now been seen by over 19 million people worldwide and is firmly established as one of the London West End's most popular shows.

Now the show comes to Birmingham on tour, running at the New Alexandra Theatre from December 9 to January 4.

It tells the remarkable true story of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons and their rise to stardom from the wrong side of the track. These four boys from New Jersey became one of the most successful bands in pop history, were inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and sold 175 million records worldwide, all before they turned 30.

Telling their story from the 1950s to 70s, the show is packed with their hits, including Beggin', Sherry, Walk Like A Man, December, 1963 (Oh What a Night), Big Girls Don't Cry, My Eyes Adored You, Let's Hang On (To What We've Got), Bye Bye Baby, Can't Take My Eyes Off You, Working My Way Back to You, Fallen Angel, Rag Doll and Who Loves You.

Worldwide

Jersey Boys is the winner of 55 major awards worldwide, including the Olivier Award for Best New Musical. The show originally opened on Broadway in 2006, receiving the Tony Award for Best Musical. It is still running on Broadway, in Las Vegas and in the West End.

Joining West End star Tim Driesen as Frankie Valli are Stephen Webb, Sam Feriday and Lewis Griffiths, playing Tommy DeVito, Bob Gaudio and Nick Massi respectively. Matt Corner will play the role of Frankie Valli at certain performances. Also in the cast will be Sean Kingsley as Gyp DeCarlo, Matt Gillett as Bob Crewe, Nathaniel Morrison as Barry Belson and Damian Bhagiar as Joey Pesci, the early fan and 'go fer' who became a movie star.

The actual Frankie Valli brings the latest incarnation of The Four Seasons to Birmingham's Genting Arena (formerly the LG) on July 2 next year.



A scene from hit musical Jersey Boys

Meanwhile, on Wednesday, December 3, the Robin 2 at Bilston hosts seated show Jersey Boy with Stephen James performing the Frankie Valli story with the help of video projection.

The Mount Pleasant venue has more nostalgia on the way. From The Jam, featuring Jam bassist Bruce Foxton, celebrate the 35-year-old Settings Sons album tomorrow night (Friday). Then Nick Dagger and The Counterfeit Stones want to spend the night together on Saturday. Bad Manners bring boisterous ska on December 11, Ray Jackson's Lindsfarne play on December 15 and it's Merry Xmas Everybody from Dave Hill and Don Powell's Slade on December 18.

Popular ballet is a Christmas cracker

IT'S beginning to feel a lot like Christmas... especially now that The Nutcracker is arriving at Birmingham Hippodrome.

The Birmingham Royal Ballet's annual festive treat for its home city is a feel-good seasonal spectacular and a much-loved part of the build up to Christmas in the West Midlands.

It tells the story of a young girl, Clara, who is whisked off to a magical land on Christmas Eve after her brave Nutcracker soldier fights an army of rats. Highlights include the Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy.

Sir Peter Wright's The Nutcracker, featuring the beautiful music of Tchaikovsky, will be staged from tomorrow (Friday) until December 13.

Rocker Joe now faces worlds war

HE dazzled the nation paying tribute to his rock heroes Led Zeppelin and Black Sabbath on The X Factor. Now former brick-layer and salesman Joe Whelan, from Wolverhampton, is to appear at the LG Arena as part of the final arena tour for Jeff Wayne's spectacular musical version of War of the Worlds.

The Martians arrive at the LG on Friday, December 5. Joe features alongside Jason Donovan, Westlife's Brian McFadden, X Factor winner Shayne Ward, West End star Carrie Hope Fletcher, a string orchestra and a hologram of Liam Neeson.

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Jimmy Carr

Jimmy Carr: Laughing & Joking (Channel 4, 10pm)

You may be surprised to know that there's a lot more to Jimmy Carr than a silly laugh and borderline offensive humour. Plenty more. Credit where credit is due after all: this man is a comedy genius with writing skills to boot – he's even penned material for Lily Savage, Bo Selecta! and Meet Ricky Gervais before now. However, for those who are more than familiar with Jimmy's work and aren't satisfied with his year-round tours and television efforts in that they're just not enough to satisfy your cravings, you'll no doubt be pleased to see that he's back on our screens tonight as, filmed in November of last year at London's Hammersmith Apollo, the award-winning funnyman performs his eighth live show.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.25** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Fern Britton Meets Donny Osmond. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. **2.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.50** Life Story. (R) **5.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.15 **Countryfile**. The team reports from Lancashire, where John Craven uncovers a landscape that was once a true spectacle, but is now almost lost to the ravages of time.

7.15 **Strictly Come Dancing: The Results**. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkelman reveal which couples are in the dance-off, and there are performances by André Rieu with Alfie Boe, and the Lord of the Dance troupe.

8.00 **Antiques Roadshow**. Fiona Bruce and the experts return to Towneley Hall near Burnley in Lancashire, where items include a collection of cut-throat razors, a mosaic and Lone Ranger memorabilia.

9.00 **Remember Me**. Care worker Hannah goes to visit Tom in hospital and is shocked to hear he has escaped, so detective Rob Fairbrother opens a missing persons investigation. Hannah pleads with him to search in Scarborough, haunted by the old folk songs she found in the pensioner's house, but the detective isn't convinced by her hunch and continues his search closer to home. Visiting Tom's home, he finds the ripped photo of the man as a boy – as well as documents revealing he once had a wife who was killed in tragic circumstances. Meanwhile, the post-mortem on social worker Alison Denning proves inconclusive – but oddly, it does show that the dead woman had water in her lungs.

10.00 **BBC News**; Regional News; Weather.

10.30 **Match of the Day 2**. Southampton v Manchester City and Tottenham Hotspur v Everton.

11.30 **The Apprentice**. The entrepreneurs head to the Royal Bath & West Show. (R)

12.30 **Film: Color of Night**. (1994) **2.25** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.15** Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.15** Countryfile. (R) **8.15** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **9.00** The Football League Show. (R) **10.20** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.50** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.20** International Rugby Union. **1.20** Live Snooker: UK Championship. **5.30** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **6.15** **Flog It!** Charlie Ross and Mark Stacey value collectibles in Monmouth, Wales, and Paul Martin explores the countryside that inspired Laura Ashley's designs. (R)

7.00 **Secrets of the Castle with Ruth, Peter and Tom**. The team explores the art of medieval combat and the construction of a castle's defences, examining the ingenious features 13th-century builders came up with to withstand attacks. (R)

8.00 **The Mekong River with Sue Perkins**. The comedienne concludes her epic journey along the Southeast Asian river as she follows the Mekong through China to its source in the Himalayas. Last in the series.

9.00 **World's Greatest Food Markets**. Billingsgate merchant Roger Barton pits himself against traders at New Delhi's Azadpur fruit and vegetable market, which provides food for the whole of India. Last in the series.

10.00 **Russell Howard's Good News**. The comedian offers his perspective on stories dominating the media, whether on television, online or in print, and he is joined by a guest with an amazing tale to tell. (R)

10.30 **The Wrong Mans**. Sam and Phil take a wounded Marat to Phil's house, but with MIs agent Smoke closing in on them, the hapless duo find they have become high-profile fugitives. (R)

11.00 **The Wrong Mans**. Sam and Phil realise they must put themselves right in the line of fire to expose the plot, save Bracknell, uncover double agents and rescue their loved ones. Last in the series. (R)

11.30 **Snooker: UK Championship**. Hazel Irvine presents highlights of the evening session from the Barbican Centre in York.

12.20 **Snooker: UK Championship Extra**. Extended highlights from today's matches. **2.20** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.20** Holby City. (R) **4.20** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.05** Animals. (R) **7.10** Animals. (R) **7.20** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.25** Sooty. (R) **7.35** Mr Bear: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.15** Horrid Henry. **8.30** Big Time Rush. **9.00** The Aquabats! Super Show! (R) **9.25** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** TV News; Weather. **11.35** Film: Carry On Again Doctor. (1969) **1.20** The Unforgettable Pat Phoenix. (R) **1.55** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **2.55** The X Factor. (R) **4.40** Midsomer Murders. (R) **6.30** Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 **ITV News**; Weather.

7.00 **Keep It in the Family**. With this year's series of 'I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!' well under way, six former residents of the jungle – Katie Price, Helen Flanagan, Joe Pasquale, Joe Swash, Kim Woodburn and Snitella – provide assistance as two families go head to head in a series of fun-filled rounds. The stars each hold the clue to a big prize, from new cars to holidays in the sun, and face being sent through a tlapador as the contestants decide whether to swap, drop or keep it in the family. Bradley Walsh hosts. Last in the series.

8.00 **The X Factor Results**. The remaining contestants wait with bated breath as Dermot O'Leary reveals who is safe and which acts will be battling it out in the sing-off for a place in next week's semi-final.

9.00 **I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!** Ant and Dec interview today's eliminated contestant about their time in the camp, their jungle likes and dislikes, and who they are tipping to win. But before that, the Geordie duo present the usual round-up of highlights from the past 24 hours as the celebrities struggle through another day of hardship in the bug-infested Australian wilderness.

10.05 **ITV News**; Weather.

10.20 **The Cube**. (R)

11.20 **Premiership Rugby Union**. Highlights of the latest top-flight fixtures.

12.10 **The Store**. **2.30** Motorsport UK. **3.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **4.05** **ITV Nightscreen**. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 NFL: The American Football Show. (R) **7.15** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Jamie's Comfort Food. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.35** The Big Bang Theory **2.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.35** The Simpsons. (R) **3.05** The Simpsons. (R) **3.35** Film: Inkheart. (2008) Fantasy adventure, starring Brendan Fraser. **5.45** Film: Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs. (2009) Animated adventure, with the voice of John Leguizamo.

7.30 **Channel 4 News**.

8.00 **The Great Wall of China: The Hidden Story – Secret History**. With access to the first nationwide survey and state-of-the-art drones mapping the Great Wall of China, this documentary offers new evidence that reveals its extraordinary magnitude, rewrites its millennia-long history and decodes its complex signals system. Using cutting-edge chemistry, the programme also finds out what has kept the wall standing for so long – a simple cooking ingredient found in kitchens across the world.

9.00 **Homeland**. As the CIA thriller continues, Carrie organises a last-ditch operation, while Lockhart and Martha do their utmost to stall Inter-Services Intelligence. Claire Danes, Mandy Patinkin, Tracy Letts and Laila Robins star.

10.00 **Jimmy Carr: Laughing & Joking**. Stand-up comedy with the host of 8 Out of 10 Cats, recorded at London's Hammersmith Apollo in November last year, featuring his familiar band of near-the-knuckle humour.

11.05 **Alan Carr: Chatty Man**. Comedian and actor Russell Brand talks about his new book Revolution and French DJ superstar David Guetta discusses his latest single. With music from Kiesza. (R)

12.05 **Confessions of a Doctor**. Eight doctors lift the lid on their working lives in the consulting room. (R) **1.05** According to Jim. (R) **1.25** American Football Live. Kansas City Chiefs v Denver Broncos (Kick-off 1.30am). Coverage of the week 13 fixture from Arrowhead Stadium, where the AFC West rivals face each other. **4.45** Snowman Triathlon. Action from Snowdonia National Park. (R) **5.10** Win It Cook It. (R) **5.35** Countdown. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **6.35** Seaside Antics. **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.05** Only the Little White Van. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Paw Patrol. **7.50** Pig Ahoy! (R) **8.00** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Wanda and the Alien. **8.35** Zack and Quack. **8.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.05** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.20** LazyTown. (R) **9.50** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.25** Access. (R) **10.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.30** Film: Noel. (2004) Drama, starring Susan Sarandon. **3.20** Film: Matchmaker Santa. (2012) Romantic comedy, with Lacey Chabert and Adam Mayfield. **5.00** Film: Annie Claus is Coming to Town. (2011) Christmas fantasy, starring Maria Thayer.

6.45 **5 News Weekend**.

6.50 **Film: Planet of the Apes**. (2001) An astronaut crash-lands on a strange planet and is captured and enslaved by the ruling race of highly intelligent apes. Luckily, he is helped by a sympathetic chimpanzee – but then discovers a shocking secret. Remake of the 1960s sci-fi adventure, directed by Tim Burton and starring Mark Wahlberg, Helena Bonham Carter and Tim Roth, and featuring a cameo appearance from the original film's star Charlton Heston. Edited for language.

9.00 **Film: The Expendables 2**. (2012) Premiere. Mercenary leader Barney Ross is recruited by the CIA to recover a top-secret package, only to come to blows with a rival band of hired guns. Barney swears revenge when the other faction kill his protégé, and leads his men on a mission to stop their enemies taking over a former Soviet nuclear facility. Action thriller sequel, starring Sylvester Stallone.

11.05 **Film: Universal Soldier**. (1992) Two dead soldiers reanimated in a military experiment recognise each other as old enemies and pursue their vendettas. Sci-fi thriller, with Jean-Claude Van Damme and Dolph Lundgren.

1.05 SuperCasino. **3.10** The Gadget Show. (R) **4.00** Her Doctor. (R) **4.20** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great TV Mistakes **8.00** Doctor Who **9.00** Edinburgh Comedy Fest Live 2012 **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** American Dad! **11.30** Some Girls **12.00** Life Is Toff **12.30** Edinburgh Comedy Fest Live 2012 **1.30** Sweat the Small Stuff **2.00** The Revolution Will Be Televised

BBC Four
8.00 The Great War **7.40** Britain's Wild Places **8.00** The Day of the Triffids **9.00** Blonnie: One Way or Another **10.10** Film: Ca\$h (2008) **11.50** Pink Floyd: Wish You Were Here **12.50** Play It Loud: The Story of the Marshall Amplifier **1.50** Great Guitar Riffs at the BBC

ITV2
11.30 The X Factor **1.25** The Xtra Factor **2.25** Kiesza: The Hot Desk **2.40** Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **4.50** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **5.50** Film: She's the Man (2006) **8.00** Scorpion **9.00** The X Factor **10.05** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now! **11.05** Educating Jesse Essex: Space Cadet **12.05** Two and a Half Men **1.00** Dads **1.25** Fake Reaction **2.00** The Vampire Diaries **2.45** Kiesza: The Hot Desk

ITV3
11.20 A Touch of Frost **1.35** Film: Columbo: Negative Reaction (1974) **3.40** Film: The Nun's Story (1959) **6.45** Inspector Morse **9.00** Lewis **11.00** Wycliffe **12.10** Film: The Elephant Man (1980) **2.20** Judge Judy **3.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4
12.45 Live Darts. **5.00** Alias Smith and Jones **6.00** Cheers **8.35** World of Sport: Dare Devils **6.45** Live Darts: The Players Championship. **11.00** Film: Rambo: First Blood Part II (1985) **1.00** Minder **2.00** Jean-Claude Van Damme: Behind Closed Doors **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
12.30 Live in Chelsea **1.30** How I Met Your Mother **2.00** Film: Chait Girl (2011) **3.55** Rude (ish) Tube Shorts **4.00** Melissa & Joey **5.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.30** The Inbetweeners: Their Favourite Episodes **11.45** The Inbetweeners Go Global **12.50** Drifters **1.25** Bad Robots **1.55** New Girl **2.45** Rules of Engagement

Film4
11.00 Broken Lance (1954) **1.00** Bride and Prejudice (2004) **3.15** Ramona and Bees (2010) **5.20** Scrooged (1988) **7.15** Airplane! (1980) **9.00** The Cold Light of Day (2012) **10.10** Promised Land (2007) **12.50** A Story of Children and Film (2013) **3.05** Cioce

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MONDAY
The National Tree, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A loving father plants a tree the day his son is born. Years later, when the boy is a teenager, it is selected to be the national Christmas tree, so father and son embark on a life-changing journey across the country to deliver it for replanting at the White House. Drama, starring Andrew McCarthy and Evan Williams. (2009)

TUESDAY
Public Enemies, ITV, 10.40pm
Fact-based crime drama following the last years of John Dillinger, whose run of bank robberies and daring prison escapes in the 1930s make him both America's most wanted criminal and a hero to a public struggling through the Depression. His career is soon to be cut short by the birth of the FBI, which assigns its most celebrated agent to bring him to justice. Directed by Michael Mann and starring Johnny Depp, Christian Bale and Marion Cotillard. (2009)



We Own the Night, Friday, ITV, 11.15pm

WEDNESDAY
The 13th Warrior, BBC1, 12.10am
A disgraced nobleman exiled from his Baghdad home joins forces with Norse warriors at the close of the first millennium, and ends up battling seemingly invincible attackers during an epic journey. Action adventure adapted from the novel Eaters of the Dead by Michael Crichton, starring Antonio Banderas, Diane Venora, Dennis Storhi, Vladimir Kulich and Omar Sharif. (1999)

THURSDAY
Die Another Day, ITV, 10.40pm
James Bond is suspended from duty after being taken hostage in North Korea, but goes against orders to track down those who betrayed him. During the pursuit of the terrorist he was investigating before his capture, he discovers a connection with a British billionaire who has constructed a devastating orbital weapon. Spy adventure, starring Pierce Brosnan. (2002)

FRIDAY
We Own the Night, ITV, 11.15pm
The manager of a New York nightclub is caught between two worlds – while his brother and father are both highly respected police officers, most of his clientele are gangsters. Despite his best efforts not to get involved, he is forced to choose sides when gang violence escalates and his sibling is targeted by a hitman. Crime drama, starring Joaquin Phoenix, Mark Wahlberg and Robert Duvall. (2007)

New series proves to be a breeze for Richard

Fashion may come and go, but one constant in the UK is our obsession with the weather. Maybe it's the fact that as an island so small we don't generate our own weather systems but have to make do with cast-offs from other countries. In a new series, Richard Hammond will be revealing the hidden secrets at the heart of some of the world's most extreme weather, experiencing extraordinary phenomena first-hand. Okay, some of the dialogue may be a little redundant, such as "Wherever you live on the planet, weather shapes your world."

That aside, Hammond will be 'stripping weather back to its basics', and in this wind-centric opener he explains how wind begins.

He kicks things off with another spot of slightly awkward dialogue: "There is a powerful, invisible force that moves around us, almost unnoticed..."

Hmmm. While the script could have done with more levity in the Top Gear vein, WWRH excels in the visuals department, whether it's glorious high definition cloudscape or obligatory shots of devastation.

There are some scenes which look like a mash up of Twister and The Dark Knight as Hammond attempts to measure the speed of a tornado.

His journey starts in New Hampshire, USA.

You might think of the region as a world of sunshine, russet leaves in the autumn and moneyed Americans enjoying expensive past times.

However, the state can also look like something from the Arctic as Hammond discovers when he braves temperatures of -45C on top of Mount Washington.

On April 12, 1934, the local weather station measured one of the fastest wind speeds ever recorded on land: 231mph.

Remarkably, winds in the area hit hurricane force more than 100 days in the year.

Going outside is not advisable unless you're covered from head to toe in well insulated protective gear. And don't forget your goggles, unless you want frozen eyeballs.

Given the fact a light wind on your face measures around 5mph; 15mph

is enough to turn an umbrella inside out; 45mph can wreck a garden fence, and 55mph can bring a shed down, the sight of Hammond in 65 to 85mph winds is enough to make you put an extra bar on the fire.

A good job there's subtitles as our host struggles to get his words out. Just a pity he doesn't tie his hat on.

Later, there's an experiment to create a fire whirlwind, and a tense moment when it looks like a pricey camera may have been lost in the vertical inferno.

Clearly a glutton for punishment, Richard decides to stand in the middle of a man-made tornado at the 'WindEEE' Research Institute in Canada. It's the only place on Earth which can duplicate the dynamics of a tornado.

Little wonder Hammond gets goosebumps, and not just because he's a bit chilly.

If this leaves you hungry for more, don't miss next week's edition when 'Hamster' attempts to capture a cloud in the hope of seeing how much it weighs. Yes, really.



Wild Weather with Richard Hammond, Monday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
The British Property Boom Channel 4, 8pm

House prices have been rising at record speeds around the UK, and naturally that has far-reaching effects for many of us. This week's show investigates the impact on buyers and sellers, with first-time buyers such as Dionne used as an example of how hard it can be to get on the property ladder. She faces having to ask her retired mother, Denise, to sell the family home to stand a chance of buying her own home. We also meet Barbara, a Hackney resident who has been priced out of the area where she was born. Plus, there's a look at some of the overseas buyers purchasing investment flats in the capital that could otherwise have been snapped up by locals. And if you're wondering what the smallest house on the market in London will cost, then brace yourselves. A property measuring just six feet wide is on the market for a whopping £235,000.

TUESDAY
Autopsy: The Last Hours of Elvis Presley Channel 5, 9pm

Dr Richard Shepherd has been linked to some of the most iconic celebrities in history – it's just a shame that none of them are alive to enjoy his company. The forensic pathologist is now famous

for his in-depth televised autopsies in which he analyses the untimely deaths of famous folk notorious for their often self-inflicted ill health. Tonight, as the title suggests, he kicks of this new series by focusing on Elvis Presley. Robert picks through the facts surrounding the singer's demise at his Memphis home Graceland in August 1977, using accounts from his best friend, his cousin and his private nurse, as well as considering all the medical facts. The programme reveals that the post-mortem report showed that towards the end of his life, nearly all of Presley's vital organs were almost double the size they should have been, and what's more, his system was full of prescription drugs.

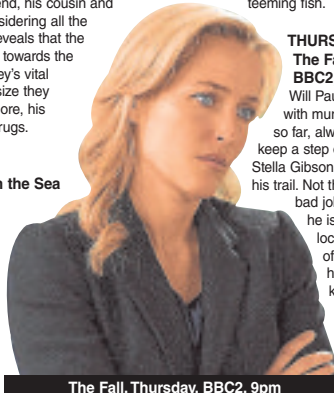
WEDNESDAY
Living on the Edge: Blood in the Sea Channel 5, 7pm

New series. Anthropologist and adventurer Chris Terrill travels to the world's most extreme environments to find out how and why people live in the grip of nature at its harshest. In the first edition, he heads to Mauritania to spend time with fishermen who work the rich but dangerous waters off the north-

west coast of Africa. Travelling from Nouadhibou in the north to the capital Nouakchott in the south, Chris and his interpreter Ahmed Taleb witness the sight of a thousand boats fighting to get through the violent surf as it breaks on to the beaches and also discover a secret paradise where the desert meets the sea and millions of birds feed on the teeming fish.

THURSDAY
The Fall BBC2, 9pm

Will Paul Spector get away with murder? He has done so far, always managing to keep a step or two ahead of Stella Gibson, the detective on his trail. Not that she's doing a bad job – she knows who he is, she just can't locate this slipperiest of customers. He, however, seems to know where she is all the time – and as a result, Gibson suspects he's witnessed her confrontation



The Fall, Thursday, BBC2, 9pm

with Burns in her hotel room. But how will Burns react when she tells him? As if the idea of Spector keeping tabs on her isn't disturbing enough, she then realises he's been visiting one of his surviving victims in hospital – but this fact allows her to finally set up a surveillance operation on him. But the need to find the evidence that will bring about Spector's arrest intensifies when a body matching the description of Rose Staggs is discovered.

FRIDAY
The Martin Lewis Money Show ITV, 8pm

For a man who's become synonymous with great money saving ideas, you'd think Martin Lewis would be on a par with some of the cash-hungry wannabes in The Apprentice, but not a bit of it. "I certainly don't preach about how to make money; that's not really my thing at all, or my passion to be honest," he explains. "I still don't consider myself to be an entrepreneur. I'm somebody who set up a website and I consider myself to be a journalist and consumer campaigner." This week, Martin helps customers reclaim lost cash after switching energy suppliers. He also reveals how companies don't have to give this money back unless they are asked. Plus, the eponymous host reveals how to buy high-street fashion abroad, take a budget flight back to the UK and still make a saving.

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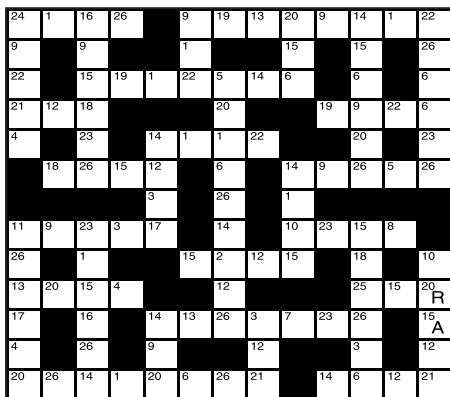
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
S	Y	D	M	V	C	R	H	K	Q	F	U	N													
E	A	T	X	O	G	B	P	J	Z	W	L	I													

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

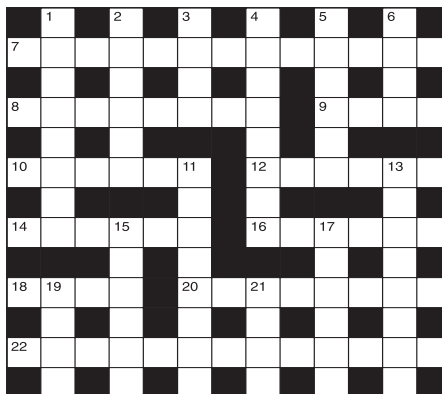
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Very busy describing 22 Across perhaps (2,4,2,5)
- An ironclad excuse for not buying luxuries (8)
- They're neat! (4)
- Take off a garment I'd first put on back-to-front (6)
- Smart evergreen (6)
- Such games are not openly played (6)
- Ring again to cancel (6)
- It has caused many deaths in Vietnam (4)
- Pains grip sick Greek hero (8)
- It was frightful, as a rule! (5,2,6)

Down

- Perform the state a monetary service (8)
- It's entertainment value is questionable (6)
- Become engaged in some sharp practice (4)
- He works so that others may play (8)
- Disturbance of increasing volume (6)
- On which many initial declarations of love have been made (4)
- He fights in the ring (8)
- Does she preach no involvement? (8)
- Royal house that is divided internally, naturally (6)
- Comrade has an attempt not worth considering (6)
- Not now the capital of Norway (4)
- Has old fashioned style (4)



Quick Clues:

Across

- Speedily (13)
- Lees (8)
- Cistern (4)
- Crash (4-2)
- Drub (6)
- Muscular (6)
- Summary (6)
- Snatch (4)
- Innate (8)
- Stupidity (13)

Down

- Outside (8)
- Yearn for (6)
- Dreadful (4)
- Despot (8)
- Assemble (6)
- Scheme (4)
- Bodily (8)
- Monotony (8)
- Move unsteadily (6)
- Powerful (6)
- Space (4)
- Conceal (4)

Sudoku

		9	5					8
2				7	9	3	5	
			8					7
	2		8				6	
9	8	7		3	2			
	4				1		7	
		3		9			1	
	5	6	2					9
1				5	7	4		

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

6	3	4	5	8	1	2	9	7
5	8	7	2	3	9	4	1	6
2	1	9	6	4	7	5	8	3
7	5	3	4	1	8	9	6	2
1	9	2	3	7	6	8	4	5
8	4	6	9	2	5	7	3	1
3	2	8	1	5	4	6	7	9
9	7	5	8	6	3	1	2	4
4	6	1	7	9	2	3	5	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Isis; 8 Conviction; 9 Draw-back; 10 Magi; 12 Befell; 14 Please; 15 Dimple; 17 Theory; 18 Ages; 19 Bulletin; 21 Oppressors; 22 Eats. Down: 2 Shortening; 3 Scow; 4 On call; 5 Pick up; 6 Stampede; 7 Anti; 11 Go straight; 13 Exposure; 16 Emboss; 17 Tallow; 18 Atom; 20 Ease. QUICK - Across: 1 Seem; 8 Answer back; 9 Babyhood; 10 Camp; 12 Cajole; 14 Deride; 15 Bellow; 17 Modern; 18 Snug; 19 Contribute; 21 Counteract; 22 Aunt. Down: 2 Excavation; 3 Many; 4 Ashore; 5 Needed; 6 Obscured; 7 Skip; 11 Moderation; 13 Obliging; 16 Wicked; 17 Manual; 18 Sick; 20 Rota.

Quiz

- Name the famous showbiz parents of entertainer Liza Minnelli.
- In which city was Christopher Columbus born?
- Of which element is diamond a form?
- What was the name of Donald Campbell's record-breaking boats and cars?
- Of which ocean does the Kara Sea form a part?
- What was the first nuclear-powered submarine?
- Who, in 1956, was the first European Footballer of the Year?
- Which musical instrument evolved from the sackbut?
- To which family of birds do canaries and siskins belong?
- Who was the first English actor to be knighted?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Collie; 2 Colette; 3 Scottish; 4 Storm petrel; 5 Inner Hebrides; 6 Lulu; 7 Munich; 8 George II; 9 Gary Mabbutt; 10 William Randolph Hearst.
Niner: POLICEMAN

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

4823 gives a wild animal,
7851239 gives another wild animal,
26389278 gives a dog.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Link-detached home is extended and improved



IMPROVED, and extended, this link-detached house in Sunningdale Road, is on the outskirts of Sedgley, close to countryside.

It is for sale through Wakeman Estates at £222,500.

It has a reception hall, lounge/dining room with an attractive fireplace with gas fire and French doors to the conservatory.

The kitchen has an oven and hob with extractor hood, a dishwasher and fridge and freezer.

There is also a utility and a shower room. Upstairs are three bedrooms, with bedroom two having built-in wardrobes, chest of drawers and a worktop/dressing top. The bathroom has been refitted with a suite including a corner bath and shower cubicle.

There is a block paved driveway, garage and rear garden with patio, decking and lawn.

For further information contact Wakeman Estates on 01902 885894 or visit the website www.wakeman-online.com



Four-bedroom family house on the market

SET in an established residential area, this four-bedroom detached house in Manson Drive, Cradley Heath, is ideal for a growing family.

It is for sale through Dixons Estate agents at £200,000.

It has an entrance hall with stairs off, a lounge with an archway to the dining room with French doors to the rear, a kitchen/breakfast room, French doors, utility, WC, master bedroom with en suite, three further bedrooms, a bathroom.

There is also a rear garden and a garage. For further information contact Dixons on 0121 3719117 or visit the www.dixons-estateagents.co.uk website.



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| Deposit £800 (EPC - D)

**£695
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Wall Heath 6 Brooklyn Grove

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| 3 Beds, Driveway, Garage
| Deposit £800 (EPC - C)

**£695
PCM**

NEW



Gornal 24 Winrush Close

| Modern Link Detached House
| Driveway For 2 Cars, Garage
| 3 Beds, Master En-Suite
| Deposit £800 (EPC - D)

**£695
PCM**

NOW LET



Wordsley 43 Ensall Drive

| Modern Semi-Detached House
| Breakfast Kitchen, Lounge
| Rear Garden With Patio Area
| Deposit £800 (EPC - C)

**£625
PCM**

NEW



Wordsley 60 Balmoral Road

| 3 Bed Semi-Detached House
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| Low Maintenance Rear Garden
| Deposit £650 (EPC - D)

**£595
PCM**



Dudley 249 Wrens Nest Road

| Modern 3 Bed Mid Town House
| Front & Rear Gardens
| Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen
| Deposit £850 (EPC - C)

**£525
PCM**



Wordsley 22 Crownoakes Drive

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| Lounge Area & Kitchen Recess
| One Allocated Parking Space
| Deposit £550 (EPC - B)

**£475
PCM**

NEW PRICE



Tipton 119 Anchor Drive

| Modern Second Floor Apartment
| 2 Bedrooms Overlooking Canal
| Lounge Area, Kitchen Recess
| Deposit £550 (EPC - C)

**£450
PCM**

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Also at **Stourbridge, Halesowen and Bearwood**



SEDGLEY, Sandyfields Road

Fastidiously maintained, Freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached family residence with PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS from the rear & within walking distance of so many amenities, schools etc. ENLARGED accommodation provides; reception hall, cloakroom, lounge, dining room, refitted 20 ft breakfast kitchen with an extensive range of units/integrated appliances. Garage is currently utilised as a store/utility room. FOUR GENEROUS BEDROOMS (three with fitted units/wardrobes), bathroom with a white suite. Magnificent landscaped rear garden.. EPC: E, SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £349,950



KINGSWINFORD, Cypress Gardens

Occupying an exclusive 'cul-de-sac' position, this SUBSTANTIAL DETACHED 'DAVID PAYNE' FAMILY HOME enjoys a secluded front and rear aspects and a GENEROUS layout including FOUR GOOD BEDROOMS Master with refitted En-Suite Shower Room. EPC C

£324,950



Dudley, The Willows

Fantastic FOUR bedroom detached home comprising: Hall, Guest Cloakroom, Two Reception Rooms, Delightful Conservatory, Superb Kitchen, Utility, Four bedrooms (two with en-suites), Bathroom, Rear garden, off road parking and Garage. EPC: C.

£275,000



WORDSLEY, New Street

A MOST DISTINCTIVE 'PERIOD' DOUBLE FRONTED LINK DETACHED FAMILY HOUSE with 2 Reception Rooms, CONSERVATORY and THREE BEDROOMS. The property enjoys a EXTENSIVE REAR GARDEN with private rear aspect. EPC D

New price

£187,500



SEDGLEY, South View Road, Northway

SPECTACULAR KITCHEN! Personal inspection imperative to appreciate kitchen. Gas centrally heated & double glazed accommodation includes porch, hall, dining room, lounge, three beds, bathroom, garden, parking. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £182,500



KINGSWINFORD, Water Street

Just a short walk from the heart of Kingswinford, this EXTENDED MODERN SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME offers an attractively presented, generous THREE BEDROOM layout, plus DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and an attractive 'L' shaped rear garden. EPC D

£169,950



SEDGLEY, Dormston Drive

Situated within walking distance of Bull Ring; a gas radiator centrally heated, uPVC double glazed, detached comprising; hallway, cloaks, 24'5" through living/dining room, kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom, block paving, garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £162,950



LOWER GORNAL, Summer Lane

Mostly double glazed gas centrally heated Period home with LARGE ATTACHED WORKSHOPS occupying a generous plot. NO UPWARD CHAIN - With lounge, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, two first double bedrooms; two large workshops attached office, driveway, garden area. EPC: E, SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £159,950



QUARRY BANK, Deeley Street

COMPREHENSIVELY REFURBISHED AND DELIGHTFULLY MODERNISED, THREE BEDROOM DETACHED HOME comprising: Hall, sitting room, breakfast kitchen, three bedrooms, contemporary bathroom and lovely Rear Garden. SOLICITOR FEES PAID UP TO 500 POUNDS. EPC E

£149,950



HOLLY HALL, Kingswinford Road

Commanding a very generous corner plot, this SPACIOUS TRADITIONAL THREE BEDROOM DETACHED FAMILY HOME requires updating, yet provides SUPERB POTENTIAL. With LONG DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and pleasantly laid out rear garden. EPC F.

£149,950



KINGSWINFORD, Rangeways Road

Enjoying a gently elevated position within this popular tree-lined address upon 'High Acres', this EXTENDED MODERN SEMI-DETACHED HOME is enhanced by a DELIGHTFUL CONSERVATORY and an attractively landscaped rear garden. EPC D

£146,950



QUARRY BANK, Marion Close

This STYLISH, BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI DETACHED FAMILY HOME, briefly comprises: Hall, Attractive Sitting Room, Dining Room, Modern Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, White Suite Bathroom, Driveway, Garage and Pleasant Garden. EPC D.

£144,950



KINGSWINFORD, Water Street

Retaining much of its original character and charm, this BEAUTIFULLY IMPROVED 'PERIOD' TWO BEDROOM MID TERRACE COTTAGE HOME now boasts ATTRACTIVE MODERN APPOINTMENTS, plus a LONG SOUTHERLY FACING REAR GARDEN forming a natural suntrap. EPC E

£144,950



HOLLY HALL, Bromford Road

Pleasantly situated within this popular address, this VERY WELL PRESENTED, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI DETACHED HOME, briefly comprises: Hall, Sitting Room, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Generous Bedrooms, Shower Room and a Large Garden. EPC C

£117,500



QUARRY BANK, Brook Street

Pleasantly situated and AVAILABLE WITH 'NO UPWARD CHAIN', this WELL PRESENTED and MOST APPEALING, SEMI DETACHED BUNGALOW, comprises: Porch, Hall, Lounge, Modern Kitchen, GENEROUS DOUBLE BEDROOM, Bathroom, Driveway, GARAGE and Rear Garden. EPC D.

£114,950



LOWER GORNAL, Lake Street

A spacious, gas centrally heated, part uPVC double glazed end terrace with potential - advantage of GATED PARKING comprising: living room, cellar, dining room, upgraded kitchen. Two double bedrooms, bathroom with white suite Garden. EPC F. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £109,950



COSELEY, Hospital Lane

EXTENDED gas centrally heated uPVC double glazed semi detached for improvement; hall, lounge, dining room, pantry, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom. Off road parking to front and comparatively lengthy garden. Mining History available. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £99,950



WOODSETTON, Brook Street

Mid terrace for improvement with remarkable potential- surprisingly spacious accommodation provides; hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, 3 first floor bedrooms, steps to attic - garden. EPC: E SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £99,950

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SEDGLEY, Cotwall End Road

Gas centrally heated, double glazed detached for improvement with PANORAMIC VIEWS comprising; hall, cloaks, L shape living room with views, kitchen, veranda. Double bedroom 3, bathroom, dining room, garden room. To first floor Two bedrooms. Garage, garden. EPC: E SEDGLEY



SEDGLEY, Eden Gardens (Off Gorge Road)

Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed dormer bungalow comprising hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen with laundry section, bathroom, fourth bedroom (alternative study). To first floor 3 beds. double garage, parking. EPC: C. SEDGLEY



DUDLEY, Aintree Way, Milking Bank

Extended gas centrally heated uPVC double glazed detached on fine corner plot: hall lounge transverse dining kitchen (french doors out to garden) utility, fitted cloaks: 4 BEDROOMS reapt shower room with white suite: garage, garden. EPC D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of **£256,000**

Offers in the region of **£220,000**

Offers in the region of **£199,950**



COSELEY, The Paddock

EXTENDED, double glazed, gas centrally heated detached by cricket ground comprising: entrance vestibule, hall, cloaks, shower room, dining room, 16'9" lounge, kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom, 23'2" garage, garden brick store. EPC: E SEDGLEY



COSELEY, Acacia Drive, Bramford Estate

EXTENDED, fastidiously presented, double glazed & gas centrally heated semi detached at head of cul-de-sac comprising: porch, hall, lounge with bay, dining room, upgraded kitchen, utility room, separate w.c. Three bedrooms, (two with first quality fitted units), repointed bathroom. Large Garage, gardens. EPC: T.B.A. SEDGLEY



LOWER GORNAL/PENSNETT, Snowberry Drive, 'Badgers Rise'

RARE OPPORTUNITY! Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached bungalow upon favoured development comprising: hall, cloakroom, lounge, kitchen, inner hallway. Two bedrooms, Lengthy driveway, garage, garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY



WOLVERHAMPTON, Dovedale Road, Ettingshall Park

ENLARGED, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached that requires updating comprising: porch, hall, two living rooms, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, garage, driveway, garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY



KINGSWINFORD, Hillcroft Road

Enjoying a desirable location, upon 'Blanford Mere' this IMPRESSIVE SEMI-DETACHED BUNGALOW offers a beautifully maintained and successfully enlarged layout, including TWO BEDROOMS with driveway, large garage and a secluded rear garden. EPC E

Offers in the region of **£157,950**

Offers in the region of **£156,950**

Offers in the region of **£156,450**

Offers in the region of **£155,000**

£154,950



DUDLEY, Belvoir Close, Milking Bank

OUTSTANDING! gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed semi detached with tremendous views & comprising: hallway, lounge, kitchen, CONSERVATORY. Two bedrooms, bathroom, garage space (subject to regulations) garden. EPC: C SEDGLEY



DUDLEY WOOD, Crabourne Road

This BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED, EXTENDED, TWO BEDROOM HOME, comprises: Hall, Sitting Room, Well Fitted Dining Kitchen, Dining Room, Further Reception Room - (Could be used as a Third Bedroom), Two First Floor Bedrooms, Modern Bathroom and Rear Garden. EPC C



WORDSLEY, George Street

A MOST DECEPTIVE 'PERIOD' MID TERRACE HOME within this popular address close to local schooling, offering generous, attractively improved / presented accommodation, plus a long, attractively landscaped, low maintenance garden. EPC E



DUDLEY, Highland Road

RARE OPPORTUNITY! Gas centrally heated, double glazed end town house comprising: entrance vestibule, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, Parking, 'low maintenance' rear garden, secluded fenced secret garden. EPC D. SEDGLEY



DUDLEY, Garrick Close, Earls Keep

MAGNIFICENT VIEWS, double glazed, CENTRALLY HEATED, 2nd Floor Apartment with 'entry phone' system comprising hall, two bedrooms (one with wardrobes), bathroom, living/dining room, kitchen. Communal grounds, parking. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of **£138,950**

£132,500

£124,950

Offers in the region of **£124,950**

Offers in the Region of **£117,950**



LOWER GORNAL, Park Road

Gas centrally heated semi detached with potential comprising hall, lounge, store, kitchen, dining room (with patio doors). Two double bedrooms, bathroom, separate toilet. Secluded rear garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY



COSELEY, Evergreen Close

Stylish, double glazed, end Mews type 'starter home' within reasonable distance of RAIL & bus routes comprising: living/dining room, kitchen. Two bedrooms, bathroom, gardens to front and side, drive and further parking. EPC: T.B.A. SEDGLEY



Brierley Hill, Cooper Avenue

Within the close end of the Avenue, this MUCH IMPROVED SEMI DETACHED HOME has GAS CENTRAL HEATING AND DOUBLE GLAZING to comprise: Hall, Sitting Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms and White Bathroom. Drive (no dropped kerb) and Rear Garden. EPC: D.



UPPER GORNAL, Hilary Crest

GROUND FLOOR, gas centrally heated, Upvc double glazed Flat with PANORAMIC, DISTANT VIEWS comprising: reception hall, two double bedrooms, lounge, shower room, store, kitchen with 'beech' effect units. Allocated garden, two stores. EPC: C. SEDGLEY



LOWER GORNAL, Orchard Grove

Freehold, gas centrally heated, (recent combi boiler), uPVC double glazed end 'starter home' offering potential for further improvements, comprising: hall, lounge, kitchen, dining room, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom. Gardens. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of **£97,750**

Offers in the region of **£89,950**

£87,950

Offers in the region of **£85,950**

Offers in the region of **£85,000**



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WORDSLEY
NEW
CROWN OAKS DRIVE
FOR SALE £124,995
Spacious Ground Floor Apartment comprising of: Entrance Hall, Open plan Lounge & Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, En Suite Shower Room, Bathroom. Benefits include: Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking.



SEDGLEY
LONG MEADOW DRIVE
FOR SALE £184,500
Link Detached Family Home. Comprises of: Two Reception Areas, Kitchen, Utility Room, Three Bedrooms and Family Bathroom. Benefits include: Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, GARAGE.



WOLLASTON
LARKHILL ROAD
FOR SALE £144,950
Refurbished property finished to a very high standard. Comprises of: Entrance Hall, Ground Floor WC, Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom. Benefits include: Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Front & Rear Gardens, GARAGE.



UPPER GORNAL
HILL STREET
FOR SALE £73,950
Nicely Presented Leasehold First Floor One Bedroom Flat comprising of Entrance hall, Lounge, Kitchen with built in cooker, Bedroom, Bathroom. Benefits include Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking.



COSELEY
NEW
ROSEVILLE PRECINCT
£375 pcm*
First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished.



LYE
NEW
BANK STREET
£525 pcm*
Terrace Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Large Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Rear Gardens.



GORNAL
NEW
EVE LANE
£620 pcm*
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Unfurnished, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Garage.



GREAT BRIDGE
NEW
EAGLE PLACE
£370 pcm*
Top Floor Apartment, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking, Secure Entrance.



GORNAL
NEW
BARR STREET
£545 pcm*
End Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Rear Garden, Unfurnished, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating.



WORDSLEY
NEW
COLDSTREAM DRIVE
£695 pcm*
Semi-Detached House, Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Driveway, Gardens to Front & Rear, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing.



TIPTON
DUDLEY PORT ROAD
£395 pcm*
Ground Floor Flat, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Off road parking, Maintained communal grounds, Unfurnished.



LYE
LOVE LANE
£395 pcm*
Top Floor Flat, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom, Bathroom with shower, Allocated Parking, Communal Grounds, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, UNFURNISHED.



WORDSLEY
KENILWORTH CLOSE
£650 pcm*
Semi Detached Bungalow, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, Garage.



HALESOWEN
ATTWOOD STREET
£525 pcm*
Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazed, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished, Rear Garden.



COSELEY
LILIAN GROVE
£550 pcm*
End Terrace House, Lounge, Kitchen, Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking, Front & Rear Garden, Unfurnished.



SEDGLEY
HAMILTON CLOSE
£750 pcm*
Detached House, Entrance, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Single Garage, Off Road Parking, Gardens to Front & Rear, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing.



KINGSWINFORD
BLenheim ROAD
£695 pcm*
Semi-Detached House, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom with shower, Three Bedrooms, Off Road Parking, Gardens to Front & Rear, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, UNFURNISHED.



LAKE SIDE
LAKESIDE COURT
£510 pcm*
First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Rear Garden, Off Road Parking, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished.



PENSNETT
COMMONSIDE
£525 pcm*
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Unfurnished, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens.



SWINDON
HIGH STREET
£450 pcm*
First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Parking at Rear.



KINGSWINFORD
LABURNUM ROAD
£435 pcm*
Ground Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Off Road Parking, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating.



KINGSWINFORD
BARTIC AVENUE
£395 pcm*
First Floor Flat, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished.



BRIERLEY HILL
FOXDALE DRIVE
£415 pcm*
Cluster Style House, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom with shower, Front Garden, Allocated Parking, Double Glazing, NO DSS/NO PETS, Unfurnished.



NETHERTON
PURLIN WHARF
£525 pcm*
Second Floor Flat, Communal Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, En Suite, Bathroom with shower, Allocated Parking, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, UNFURNISHED.

(Administration/application fees will apply)

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NO LET NO FREE **NO SALE NO FREE**

PROPERTY

Prime location near village for family home



A detached family residence in Gospel End Road, Sedgley, is within walking distance of the village centre.

It is for sale through Swinscoes at £249,950 with no chain. The property represents excellent value and offers flexible living space with accommodation comprising entrance hallway, lounge, an open plan and recently fitted dining kitchen, utility room, play room/sitting room and downstairs WC on the ground floor. On the first floor there are four bedrooms, two en suite shower rooms and a bathroom. For further information contact Swinscoes on 01902 672274 or visit the website at www.swinscoes.co.uk



This traditional semi has lovely views of parkland



IN a peaceful position, this traditional-style semi-detached home in Monument Avenue, Wollescote, in Stourbridge, has superb distant views over Stevens Park to the rear.

It is for sale through Jon Stanier at £179,950.

Having gas central heating and double glazing and stripped pine doors, this three-bedroomed property also has a white bathroom suite with a separate shower cubicle.

There is a hall, lounge, dining room, lobby, WC, kitchen with separate dining area and patio door, and there is a cellar.

An elevated terrace with has delightful parkland views and steps down to a garden.

Call the agents on (01384) 77877 or visit www.jonstanier.co.uk website.



K.Stuart Swash

PROPERTY AUCTION - 9th December 2014



TENBURY WELLS, 6 TEMESIDE CLOSE

Within access of this delightful Market Town, in a residential cul-de-sac, a spacious Detached House now in need of modernisation. Hall, 20ft. Lounge, Dining Room, spacious Breakfast Kitchen, Utility / Cloakroom, WC., Four Bedrooms (one en suite), Bathroom, Gas CH., Garage, pleasant Garden. EPC: E54

Guide: £130,000 / £140,000

VIEWING: BY APPOINTMENT



16 SMITH CLOSE, COSELEY Ripe for Upgrade

At the head of a residential cul-de-sac, a spacious Three Bed Semi., Two Reception, Kitchen, Utility, WC., Store, 1st Floor Bathroom, Gas CH, Some Upvc Double Glazing, overgrown Garden. EPC: TBA

Guide: £59,000 / £64,000

VIEWING:

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 28th & 29th NOVEMBER @ 12.00 noon



10 ALEXANDRA ROAD, PENN

Very smartly modernised, Late Victorian Mid Terraced Residence with Two Reception, Kitchen and Utility, Three Bedrooms and Bathroom, Gas CH., Double Glazed,

Useful Outbuilding and Rear Garden. EPC: D63

Guide: £125,000 / £135,000

VIEWING:

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 28th & 29th NOVEMBER @ 11.00 a.m.

NORTH WARNBOROUGH, HAMPSHIRE, MILL LANE

Parcel of Freehold Land with frontage to Mill Lane



WOLVERHAMPTON, 31 NEWBRIDGE STREET

Well presented and attractive Three Bed Semi, Through Lounge, Study, Dining Area, Kitchen, Cloakroom, Garage, enclosed Rear Garden with useful Outbuilding. EPC: E40

Guide: £118,000 / £123,000

VIEWING:

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 28th & 29th NOVEMBER @ 10.00 a.m.

FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION

(subject to Conditions and prior sale)

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3 Bedroom Semi Detached Property

Guide: £49,000 - £54,000



41 Madin Road, Tipton

3 Bedroom Semi Detached Property

Guide: £50,000 - £55,000



49 Northview Drive, Brierley Hill

4 Bedroom Link Detached Property

Guide: £100,000 plus



184 Park Lane West, Tipton

Residential Investment Property

Gross Income: £5,400 pa

Guide: £49,000 - £52,000



74 Rosemary Crescent, Woodsetton

Residential Investment Property

Gross Income: £3,936 pa

Guide: £74,000 - £84,000



1 Bell Court, Brierley Hill

Residential Investment Property

Gross Income: £4,800 pa

Guide: £18,000 - £23,000

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Hot hatch is a crazy riot

By James Parker

Take one Fiat 500, add a crazy turbocharged engine, spicy bod-ikit and wait for the fireworks. Fiat's evergreen 500 has been turned into a fire-breathing hot hatch before by legendary firm Abarth, but the latest version is now a permanent addition to the range.

Available in semi-sensible Turismo or the 100 per cent barmy Competizione guise tested here, the Abarth 500 is not for the faint of heart.

There's a turbocharged 1.4-litre petrol unit up front that offers a healthy 158bhp but more significantly 170lb.ft of torque. The exterior wears a seriously tough bod-

ikit and gorgeous alloy wheel options, while there's stiffer suspension and uprated brakes too. There's some interesting touches inside too, such as the attractive metal-topped gearlever.

It's hard not to love the Abarth 500's looks, even though from some angles it is almost comically pumped up.

From a rational point of view, it has the proportions of a roller-skate, with a short wheelbase, big wheels and a minimal ride height, but it just makes you want to get in and drive it.

Any notion that the standard 500 is a car 'just for girls' is dismissed in a flash when it's turned into an Abarth. Those in the know recognise the badge and those that don't are intrigued.

Don't forget that the Abarth is still a city car, however much its transformation has rendered it better suited to the open road.



'Drive the 595 in the manner it deserves and you'll revel in the gloriously torquey engine, the raucous exhaust note and the way in which it dives into bends.'

So up front there is a respectable amount of space for adults but the driving position is better suited to those under six feet in height. In the rear it's kids or adults who are willing, rather than pure luxury.

This particular 595 had the optional leather bucket seats, which are terrifically supportive and look superb. In fact it's very easy to be carried away with the options list, especially when the end result is so much fun.

Drive the 595 in the manner it deserves and you'll revel in the gloriously torquey engine, the raucous exhaust note and the way in which it dives into bends with

limitless enthusiasm. It's a car that works best when you chuck it about rather than use a delicate hand. Do so and it's a complete riot, as well as remarkably quick. Turn down the wick and it's a little more like hard work. The great handling comes from the stiff suspension which means bumps are

There's actually quite a bit of competition at this price level, and on the one hand the 595 Competizione is far from cheap.

However, it does come with a lot of kit too; items like Xenonheadlights and the glorious exhaust system are all standard.

Go mad with the options list and you can break the £20k mark.



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Official Fuel Consumption Figures for the Suzuki Swift range mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km): Urban 41.5-46.3 (6.8-6.1), Extra Urban 57.6-64.2 (4.9-4.4), Combined 50.4-56.5 (5.6-5.0), CO₂ emissions 128-116 g/km and for the Suzuki SX4 range mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km): Urban 32.5-42.8 (8.7-6.6), Extra Urban 50.4-60.1 (5.6-4.7), Combined 42.2-53.3 (6.7-5.3), CO₂ emissions 155-139 g/km and for the Suzuki Splash range mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km): Urban 40.9-50.4 (6.9-5.6), Extra Urban 56.5-67.3 (5.0-4.2), Combined 49.6-60.1 (5.7-4.7), CO₂ emissions 131-109 g/km and for the Suzuki Alto range mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km): Urban 43.5-54.3 (6.5-5.2), Extra Urban 65.7-74.3 (4.3-3.8), Combined 55.4-65.7 (5.1-4.3), CO₂ emissions 118-99 g/km.

The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. *Model shown: Swift SZ4 available from £12,199 (Metallic paint available at £430). *VAT free offer on Swift range: Swift 1.2 SZ2 3dr available from £8,999, including a customer saving of £1,800 to Swift 1.2 SZ4 5dr 4x4 available at £13,699 including customer saving of £2,740 which is equivalent to the VAT amount of the previous on the road price of £10,799 (SZ2 3dr) and £16,439 (SZ4 5dr 4x4). VAT free offer excludes Swift Sport. *Model shown: SX4 SZ5 available from £13,249 (Metallic paint available at £430). *VAT free offer on SX4 range: SX4 1.6 SZ3 available from £10,495, including customer saving of £2,100 to SX4 SZ5 4x4 available at £13,249 including customer saving of £2,650 equivalent to VAT amount of previous on the road price of £12,595 (1.6 SZ3) and £15,899 (1.6 SZ5 4x4). *Model shown: Splash SZ4 available from £9,899 (Metallic paint available at £415). *VAT free offer on Splash range: Splash 1.0 SZ2 available from £7,999, including customer saving of £1,600 to Splash 1.2 SZ4 A/T available at £10,645 including customer saving of £2,129 equivalent to VAT amount of previous on the road price of £9,599 (SZ2) and £12,774 (SZ4 A/T). *Model shown: Alto SZ4 available from £7,999 (Metallic paint available at £399). *VAT free offer on Alto range: Alto 1.0 SZ available from £5,999, including customer saving of £1,200 to Alto 1.0 SZ4 A/T available at £8,625 including customer saving of £1,724 equivalent to VAT amount of previous on the road price of £7,199 (SZ) and £10,349 (SZ4 A/T). VAT equivalent reduction is not available on vehicle options or accessories. VAT Free offer excludes Swift Sport. For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. Offer subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st October 2014 to 31st December 2014 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print.

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Super luxury car returns

It may have disappeared with a whimper but Mercedes has announced it's reintroducing its super-luxury Maybach nameplate next year.

In the face of modest sales and stiff competition from the likes of Bentley and Rolls-Royce, Mercedes' first attempt at reintroducing the premium historic marque wasn't the success

the German firm had hoped for. This time around, and helped by a newer, more accomplished base model S-Class platform to work with, Mercedes is promising levels of luxury and performance not seen from the brand for some time.

Now positioned as a sub-brand and no longer a standalone marque, industry insiders are expecting Mercedes to roll out extra long wheelbase versions

of the S-Class reminiscent of the firm's iconic Pullman variants from the past.

There's no word yet on price, but with the regular range-topping S-Class easily breaking the £100,000 barrier, don't expect too much change from twice that once you've factored in the all-important cost options.

More details – and the all-important car – are expected to be revealed later this year ahead of a 2015 launch.

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Tesla now in the Midlands

Electric car maker Tesla continues its expansion in the UK with the launch of a new West Midlands-based store and six 'Supercharger' re-charging points.

A five-minute drive from A45 and A38, the Tesla Birmingham retail and service centre in Digbeth is the firm's fourth UK store.

By the end of 2014, customers will be able to visit Tesla stores and service centres across the country. The company is currently recruiting for upcoming sales and service facilities in Manchester, Bristol, Newcastle and Edinburgh.

The company also continues to expand its charging network, with six Supercharging sites now open.

In London, three new Supercharging sites at Canary Wharf, Tower Bridge and Westfield White City add to locations at Portman Square and Royal Victoria Docks.

As well as Tesla's existing site in Birmingham, the company has added Reading, Bristol and Edinburgh to its network. Within the next six months, the company claims Model S drivers will be able to drive the length of the UK relying only on Superchargers.

Commenting on the company's progress, Georg Ell, Tesla's country director for the UK and Ireland, said: "We are working on additional London locations with new sites to be announced shortly. Our plan for routes around the UK is also under way and we now have four locations outside of the capital."

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4 Pets & Animals

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guns & dogs

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6 Property

accommodation to let

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Rates Advertising rates are as laid out in the Company's current rate card which is available on request from the Company's offices. The rates may be varied from time to time in the Company's absolute discretion and without prior notification of the intended variation. The revised rate will be charged for any advertising ordered after the date of variation.

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Applicable Law These conditions of acceptance shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the law of England and Wales.

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1. **Midland News Association Limited** All publications in this group are published by the Midland News Association Limited, registered office Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES (the "Company") and this is the address to which any notices should be sent.

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First goal was lethal for Albion, says boss

BAGGIES boss Alan Irvine believes Chelsea's controversial opening goal spoiled his team's chances of pulling off a shock defeat at Stamford Bridge.

Irvine's men went down 2-0 to the Premier League leaders and had Claudio Jacob sent off but Irvine was upset by the award of Chelsea's opener, with replays suggesting scorer Diego Costa was fractionally offside when Oscar delivered the cross.

"We could have been a little bit more on the front foot from the front but the game was really just settling down, I felt," said Irvine, who defended the performance of his players.

"Then obviously we lost the first goal and that rocked us. That made a difficult task even more difficult."

"What we have to do is look at that game and take the positives out of it."

"There aren't lots and lots of positives, obviously, but we can certainly be pleased that we played for so long with 10 men and didn't cave in. So mentally there are a lot of positives."

"Ben Foster was terrific."

"It's the most he's had to do this season by a long way," said Irvine.

Certainly not Nirvana for Gornal

Thurnby Nirvana 4 Gornal 1

GORNAL'S hopes of a good FA Vase run vanished as they lost 4-1 to inform United Counties side Thurnby Nirvana.

Despite a promising start, Athletic found themselves a goal down on eight minutes when Eddy Samba beat keeper Rich Kennedy at the second attempt.

Gornal's Tim Piggott spurned a great chance to equalise before Thurnby doubled their lead on 31 minutes through Ashley Day.

The hosts made the game safe on 65 minutes through Reece Moore. Matt Melbourne then celebrated Thurnby's fourth before Geoff Hill's consolation.

Lions brought back down to earth by Bridgnorth

Bridgnorth 54 Stourbridge Lions 11
THE Lions travelled to Bridgnorth on Saturday with several key players missing, especially in the pack and lost 54-11.

There was no man of the match this time; it was a team effort that, before half-time, saw the Lions competing on level terms and at one stage even leading, causing the home side and their fans a great deal of concern.

The second half saw the Lions fade as many of the players tired under constant pressure.

Bridgnorth are the stand-out team in the league.

They will, barring a fall-off in perfor-

Rugby

mance of earth-shattering proportions, be promoted very soon after Christmas.

This makes the first half efforts of a weakened Lions all the more praiseworthy.

Though they conceded four tries in the first half they scored one of their own. One of the best they have scored all season with a sweeping move from just outside the Lions 22 with a break by the half backs Williams and Wilson carried on by Dews and a pass to send Chance on a thrilling 50 metre

sprint down the left touchline for a great try. Until the last five minutes of the half Lions were actually in contention, a couple of Wilson penalties at one point seeing the Lions 11-10 ahead.

Driving play by the forwards caused obvious frustration in the home ranks and it was only two mistakes, one a series of missed tackles down the Lions right and the other a ball mysteriously lost at the back of a ruck which saw Bridgnorth ahead by 20-11 at half-time.

The start of the second half saw a tiring Lions subjected to massive pressure.

The third quarter resulted in three tries

and a conversion to leave the Lions, battered, bruised but unbowed, 37-11 down.

Bridgnorth kept up the pressure and three more tries and a conversion saw them move further away.

A comprehensive defeat then, but one from which the Lions can take great heart. Although this was a team effort there must still be special mention of a few.

A young, relatively inexperienced front row gave as good as they got in both scrum and around the field. Ex first team lock John Taylor returned to start a game for the first time in two years.

And Matt Poole had a fine game.

Glassboys play to the crowd for win

Stourbridge 2 FC Utd Manchester 1
THE first meeting between these two sides saw Stourbridge deservedly come out on top in front of a bumper crowd of 1,444.

It was the first four-figure crowd for a league fixture at the War Memorial ground since February 1991, when 1,003 saw Stour beat Tamworth 2-0 in the Southern League Midland Division.

The Glassboys had to weather some early pressure but were strong at the back and looked dangerous on the break so the visitors could never afford to relax.

Early on there were few chances to get on the scoreboard, however, Craig Lindfield going closest for the visitors when he sent a shot wide of the mark.

But on 27 minutes Stourbridge took hold of the game and grabbed the lead when George Bowerman ran down the left and then put the ball inside for Kayelden Brown who shot into the corner of the net.

Kristian Ramsey-Dickson had an effort ruled out for offside on 33 minutes but six minutes later he picked up a flick-on from a goal kick and produced a great finish to make it 2-0.

Former Ajax youngster Frank Van Gills should have got one back for United just before the break when he headed wide in front of an open goal.

But Stourbridge almost scored with a header of their own into the second half when Paul McCone got on the end of a Bowerman cross but missed the target.

Inevitably the visitors put pressure on as the half progressed.

Football

And it was on 70 minutes that Stourbridge goalkeeper Dean Coleman produced an excellent save from a Greg Daniels shot that to all intents and purposes was heading for the top corner for a score.

FC United did get a goal back nine minutes from time when Van Gills skipped past two defenders on the edge of the box and crossed low for Thomas Greaves.

Greaves, who was making his 100th appearance for FC United, made no mistake with his finishing and set up a nail-biting few final few minutes for the Glassboys.

The result lifts Stourbridge up two places to be just outside the top 10 in 11th place in the Evo-Stik Premier Division, just four points off the play-off places and with matches in hand on all the teams above them.

Stourbridge: Coleman; Fitzpatrick; Ramsey-Dickson; Bson; McCone; Till (Morgan-Parker 84); Brown (Smikle 65); Haynes; Geohagon; Bowerman (Broadhurst 82); Canavan; Knight.

Subs not used: McPike; Hill

Whiley is setting her sights on NEC Masters



Tennis champion Jordane Whiley came runner up in the Nottingham Indoor tournament over the weekend

HALESOWEN'S Jordanne Whiley completed her preparations for the coming week's NEC Wheelchair Tennis Masters by finishing runner-up in the women's singles on Sunday at the Nottingham Indoor, just 24 hours after lifting the women's doubles title with fellow Brit Lucy Shuker.

World No.6 Whiley, the 2010 Nottingham Indoor champion, was beaten 6-0, 6-4 by Dutch world No.2 Jiske Griffioen in the singles final,

but is buoyed by her second set comeback heading into the year-end singles championship for the world's leading players, which begins on Wednesday in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, London.

"I did well in the second set and brought it back a little bit, but I couldn't find my rhythm," said Whiley, who will go to the Masters bidding to progress beyond the round-robin phase of the competi-

tion for the second successive year. She became the first Brit to reach the women's singles semi-finals at the prestigious event in 2013.

"It wasn't my day and Jiske was on fire. But I know I can beat her, I've beaten her before and I'm really excited to be heading back to the venue where I won my London 2012 doubles bronze medal for the Masters at the end of what's been a memorable season."

Irvine is to quiz player on tweet

ALBION boss Alan Irvine insists Youssef Mulumbu will be back after the out-of-form midfielder was dropped from the Baggies squad for Saturday's defeat at Chelsea.

Irvine is planning to speak to Mulumbu over a cryptic pre-match tweet which appeared to poke fun at the decision to leave him out of the 18-man squad.

But the Hawthorns head coach, who also defended the decision to leave Silvestre Varela and Sebastian Blanco off the bench, believes Mulumbu will recapture his missing form.

"I thought he started the season really well," said Irvine.

"He was absolutely terrific and then unfortunately he got a hamstring injury while away on international duty and that's knocked him back a bit."

"I've got every faith that Youssef will come again. He hasn't played so well since he came back from the injury but at the beginning of the season he was one of the first names on the team sheet."

Mulumbu raised eyebrows by tweeting "In the stand loool...."

And Irvine is planning to ask him about his reaction.

DK women are out of the running

DUDLEY Kingswinford Running Club ran at the Midlands Counties Cross Country Open Meeting at Wolverhampton & Bilston's Aldersley Stadium.

In the women's event over a five mile course, Sally McConville took 55th place with 48.03, Lisa Newell was 61st in 49.20 and Meg Downen finished in 51.44 for 64th position.

Unfortunately with four runners needed to score they were unable to record a team position as other members dropped out due to injury. In the team event Tipton Harriers won Wolverhampton & Bilston took silver and Northbrook AC bronze. In the men's seven mile event Ben Foster was 13th in 42.04.

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Just missed
Jordanne Whiley sets
sights on Masters
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Visting Yeltz in Trafford shutout

Trafford 0 Halesowen 2
A professional performance gave Halesowen all three points in Manchester.

The opening chance came from Halesowen, as Danny Bragoli picked up the ball from the edge of the area, and smashed the ball towards goal, but Dan Wilczynski made a brilliant save to deny him.

Trafford had their chances as well in the first half, as captain forced Matt Sargeant into making a good save, and Mile Oates created a chance for himself but he could only blast the ball over the bar.

The Yeltz took the lead on 65 minutes, as Iyseden Christie slotted the ball through the Trafford defence to Kristian Green, who placed the ball into the net with power.

Halesowen doubled their lead in the final moments of the game, as Robert Thompson Brown made and individual run and ended it with comfortably placing the ball into the net.

The Yeltz move up the table once again, as their progress moves them up to 15th.

Halesowen: Sargeant, Green, Griffiths, Forde, Hull, Tilt, Kettle (Tonks), Bragoli (Mackenzie), Christie, Haseley (Thompson-Brown), Turner. Unused Subs: Robinson, Lait

Letford goal is a winner

Dudley Sports 2 W-ton Casuals 1

TWO second-half goals in the space of five minutes earned Dudley Sports victory over Wolverhampton Casuals.

In a scrappy West Midlands Premier game, Casuals went ahead in the 23rd minute when Daniel Westwood headed down an Angelo Franco cross for Scott Embrey to score from eight yards.

Just before the goal Lewis Cooper made a great run in to the Sports area only to see his shot well saved by Sports keeper Dominic Richards.

Sports equalised in the 79th minute when Oliver Staten volleyed a Luke Williams corner past Casuals goalkeeper Steve Booth.

And the hosts' second goal came from Jonathan Letford when his effort went under Booth's body.

Jackett is looking to strengthen defence

KENNY JACKETT will scour the loan market this week in a bid to shore up Wolves' dodgy defence – but insists outcast Roger Johnson has not crossed his mind as a solution.

After Saturday's 3-0 home defeat to Nottingham Forest made it eight goals conceded in two games, boss Jackett is weighing up defensive reinforcement options.

The emergency loan window closes on Thursday and the head coach is far more likely to go down that route than consider offering an olive branch to Johnson.

Jackett said: "That (Johnson) is not

Football

something I have considered and I am very unlikely to think about that.

"We can do better internally. But you are always looking at the loan deadline on Thursday and then the January window to be able to turn things around if you need that option.

"It depends on who is available and what calibre of player you can bring in at present.

"But we do need to find an equation at the back that stops these goals going in

because we have gone from a very compact unit and being defensively very stringent to conceding some very poor goals."

Jackett insists the whole team must carry the can for the recent defensive woes – and wants more from his attackers too.

He added: "That's 10 goals against in three games, which is poor, and then only one scored – that's a big swing and it's something we need to address quickly."

"It's not a one-off situation now – we've conceded a lot of goals and I can't really look at my goalkeeper either in that period.

"As both a defence and as a team we need

to defend better and then going the other way we need to be a threat too."

Ethan Ebanks-Landell limped off with a hamstring problem against Forest and is a doubt for Saturday's trip to Brentford, but Scott Golbourne and Nouha Dicko could return.

Dicko faces a fight to regain his place after Jackett was impressed by Sunderland loan man Danny Graham's debut on Saturday.

Jackett added: "Danny worked very hard and I think he will get better with every game in terms of his fitness."

Tividale keep up the wins

Rainworth 1 Tividale 2

TIVIDALE continued their impressive away record with their fourth win on the road in a last-gasp success over Rainworth.

The first half was summed up with the fact neither keeper had a shot to save as both teams failed to create anything. The only incident of note was Rainworth skipper Emeka Nwadike having to go off with a cut under his eye.

Rainworth had the first effort on goal at the start of the second period when Charlie Price had to touch over a dipping free-kick from Theo Brown on 47 minutes.

That was the end of the action until the introduction of new Tividale signing Roland Agbor on the hour.

On 83 minutes he brilliantly back-heeled home a Danny Ashton cross to break the deadlock.

And in the second minute of injury time Agbor's right-wing cross was headed home at the back post by Leigh Downing.

Rainworth did get on the score sheet in the fifth minute of injury time when Brown made no mistake.

Freddie is back as Wolves rider

SPEEDWAY ace Freddie Lindgren set his sights on the play-offs after sealing a return to Wolves.

The popular 29-year-old Swede's return to Monmore, following a year away, was confirmed on Monday at the club's winter talk-in with fans. Lindgren first raced for Wolves in 2003 as a 17-year-old.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketterley, Telford, Thursday, November 27

DK SEE GAME SLIP AWAY FROM THEM

DK 15 Nuneaton 46

MANY would say this game went to form, which in fairness it did. But that was not the whole story.

After 27 minutes the score Nuneaton were two points ahead, both sides had scored two tries, and DK were in the game.

Both defences kept out the opening attacks, then DK earned a penalty just in the Nuneaton half which was taken by Joel Barrett, who made it to the 22, the ball was recycled and found its way to the DK right flank.

Possession was won as Liam Marshall had came off his wing and he was used as a decoy to hold the Nuneaton defence, the ball was shipped along the line to full back Nic Adams who then chipped over the advancing defence, reclaimed his kick and scored the first try.

The lead lasted only four minutes when Nuneaton drew level when they breached the DK line.

Manufactured

Moments later they scored again following a period of possession in the DK 22, they manufactured a position in the club house corner, when the stretched DK defence was cleverly outflanked by a ball behind two of their players to two more of their backs in the five metre channel.

Their No.13 touched down and Wilson added the conversion.

DK pressed again and were given another penalty just in the Nuns' half, this time Connah took a quick penalty and once again this led to a gain of ground.

Rugby

A good DK ruck lead to their back line running at a disorganised defence, then Liam Marshall had a clear run.

Nuns then scored again when their full back breached the DK defence with an excellent dummy. Then the last play of the half saw their inside centre power past several defenders to set up a converted try at half time.

The second half saw territory dominated by Nuneaton and in the third quarter both their half backs scored tries. Wilson converted one and added a penalty to give them a 41-10 lead.

It was at this point that DK had a golden five minutes, which started with the ball popping out of a ruck by their own line. Connah reacted quickly but his only option was to pass then the DK backs moved the ball across their own goal area to Jamie Hearn who beat his man and started down the field, suddenly the ball is in touch inside the Nuneaton 22. James Fildes gained his first try for the Firsts. The Nuns finished the game with another try.



DK's Ed Parry is dragged to the ground during the match against Nuneaton

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